

# LONE WOLF AND CUB

狼と子犬

VOLUME 8

CHAINS  
OF DEATH

By KAZUO KOIKE  
& GOSEKI KOJIMA



多道水狼

# LONE WOLF AND CUB



story  
**KAZUO KOIKE**

art  
**GOSEKI KOJIMA**



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**CHAINS  
OF  
DEATH**

*By KAZUO KOIKE  
& GOSEKI KOJIMA*

子連れ狼



VOLUME

8

# A NOTE TO READERS

*Lone Wolf and Cub* is famous for its carefully researched re-creation of Edo-Period Japan. To preserve the flavor of the work, we have chosen to retain many Edo-Period terms that have no direct equivalents in English. Japanese is written in a mix of Chinese ideograms and a syllabic writing system, resulting in numerous synonyms. In the glossary, you may encounter words with multiple meanings. These are words written with Chinese ideograms that are pronounced the same but carry different meanings. A Japanese reader seeing the different ideograms would know instantly which meaning it is, but these synonyms can cause confusion when Japanese is spelled out in our alphabet. *O-yuruishi o* (please forgive us)!

# LONE WOLF AND CUB



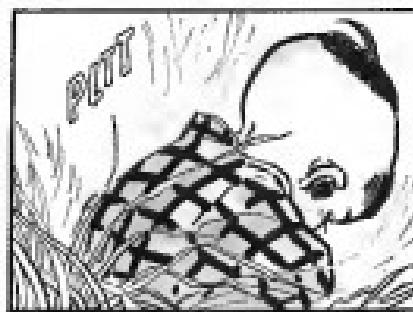
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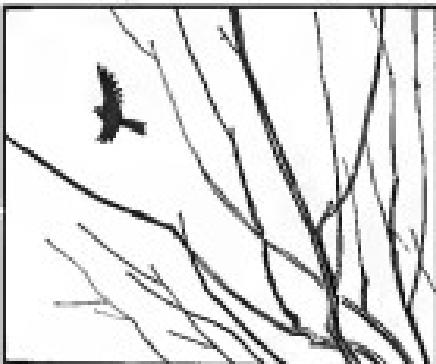
*the thirty-ninth*

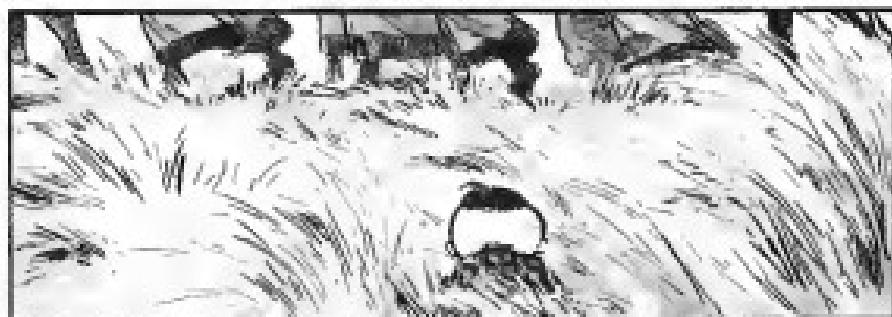
Tidings  
of the  
Geese

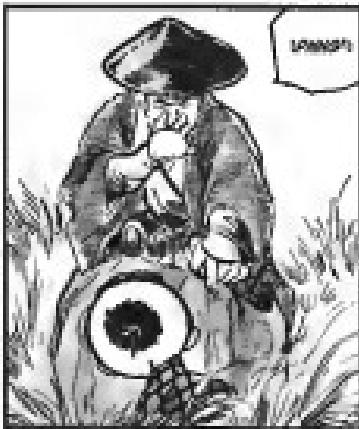




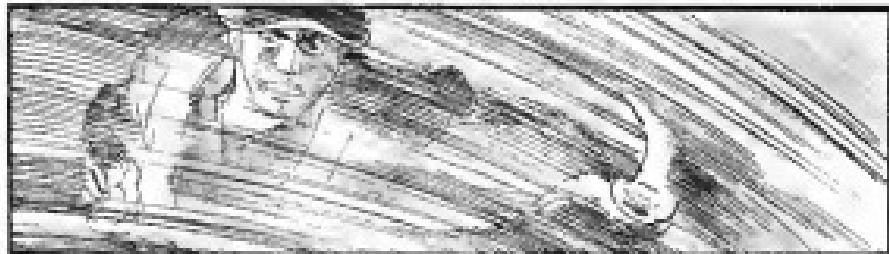
BIRI-HAKUBO ALONG THE RITO BYWAY,  
ON THE ROAD FROM SEIGU VIA FURUDATE  
AND SHOTOKU, AND ON TO SAKURA.

















THE HOTTA CLAN IS THE  
ROCK OF THE  
TOKUGAWA FORTRESS...

AND MASAMORI HIMSELF  
IS A TRUE SAMURAI, BRAVE AND  
HONORABLE. YOU HAVE EVERY  
REASON  
TO BE  
SURPRISED.



HOTTA-SAN WAS LONG  
BEING DISMAYED BY THE COURAGE-  
LESSNESS OF THE SHOGUN. THIS TWENTY-  
EIGHTH OF SEPTEMBER, IT CAME TO A HEAD. HE SUDDENLY RETURNED TO  
SAMURA FROM EDO, AND WITHDREW  
TO HIS CASTLE. HE THEN SENT A  
MESSAGE TO THE SHOGUNATE.

A MOST  
STRANGULAR  
DOCUMENT...



TOKUHARASADA:  
DIRECT PETITION TO THE SHOGUN





With trepidation I address these words to my lord...

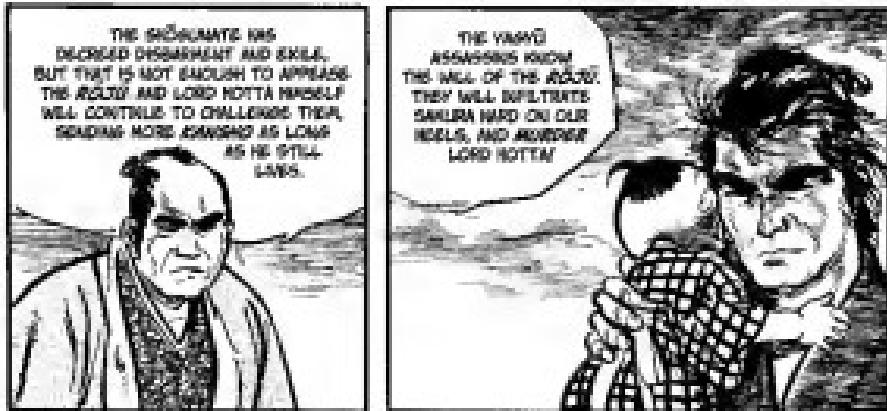
During the ten years of my lord's most honored reign, every year has brought new scandal, while there have been no tidings to gladden the hearts of the people. Reviewing the state of the nation, I find the citizenry impoverished, the very Arrows and even worked to exhaustion. The source of this malice is the corruption of the Tokugawa, your most senior officials.



The Tokugawa govern for themselves alone, and thus the people are driven to despair. Of my own volition, I offer my lord the thirty thousand koku over which I rule, that you may employ it in the cause of enlightened government.







IT CAN ONLY BE DIVINE PROVIDENCE THAT LED US TO YOU, THE ASSASSIN AGAINST MEIJI AND ZOKEI, WHO DWELLS IN AMBUSHES TO DEFEAT THE YAMATO. IT RECALLS THE TALE OF SHIBANOBU, THE TERMS OF THE SABAKO.



THERE ARE THINGS A RETAINER OF THE TOKUGAWA MAY NOT SAY ALOUD...YET I REMAIN AS THE WISE MASTERS SERVANT OF CRIMES ANCIENT HAN DYNASTY, WHO, WHEN TAKASHI PRISONER BY SWINDLES, TIE A MESSAGE TO A WILD BOAR'S PEOPLE... THE LION OF TO MARRY HIS



SO I AM TO READ YOUR JAMESHO, AND STRIKE DOWN LORD HOTTA'S ASSASSINIST?



IS THAT WHAT YOU ASK?

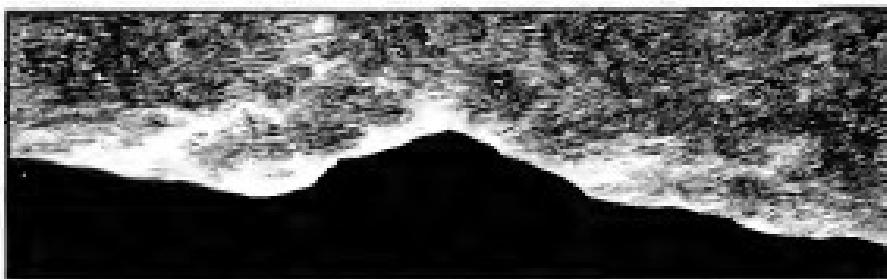


NOT ASK...  
BEG!

LORD HOTTA IS THE CONSPIRATOR OF THE TOKUGAWA! IF TRUE SAMURAI ONCE AGAIN LEAD THE NATION, HE WILL BE OUR AGON.

WE CANT LET THESE KABUTO SCUM DESTROY SUCH A HONO YER, WE OVER YOUR AGO.

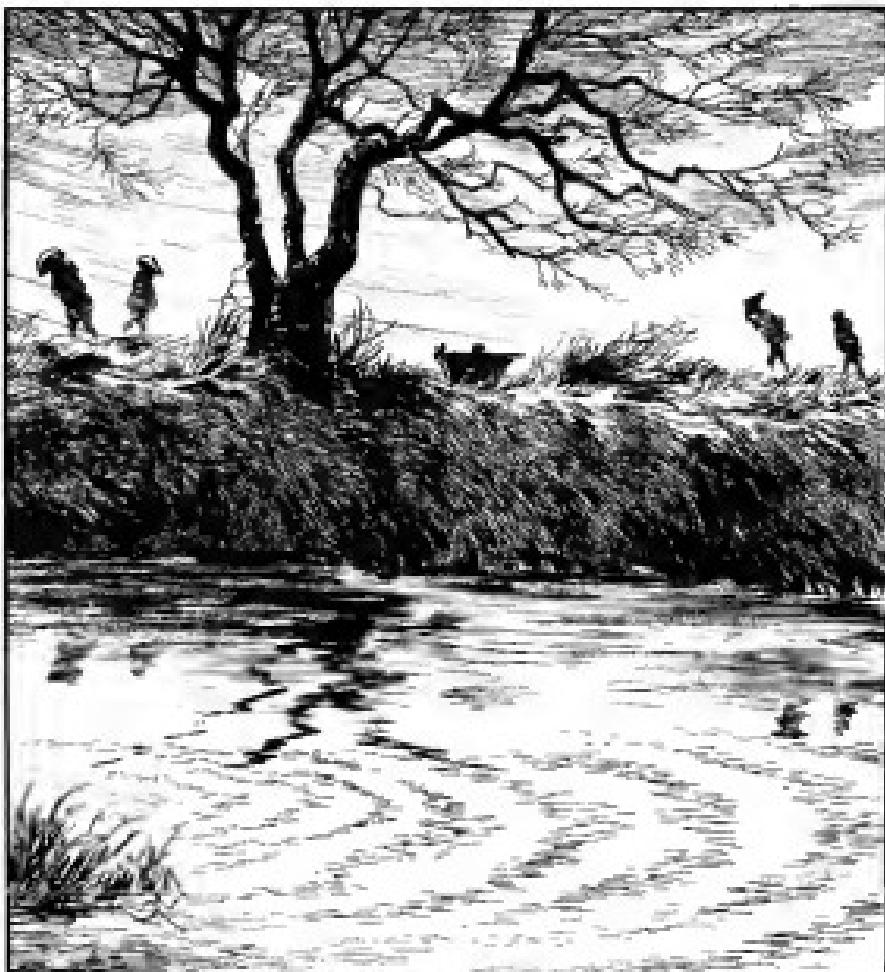


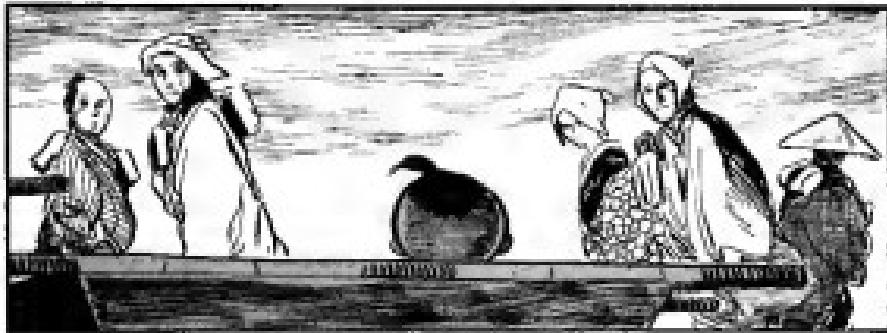
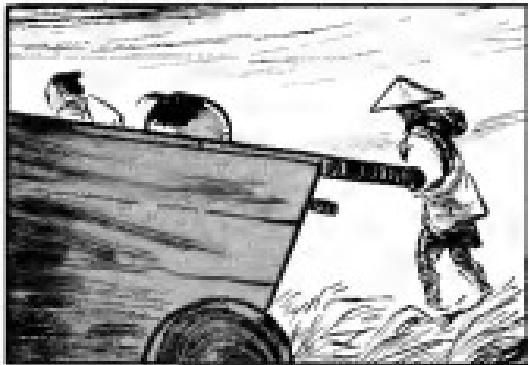


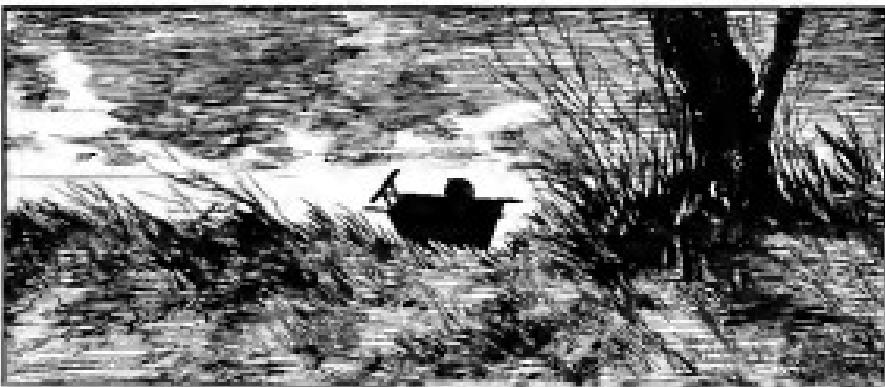


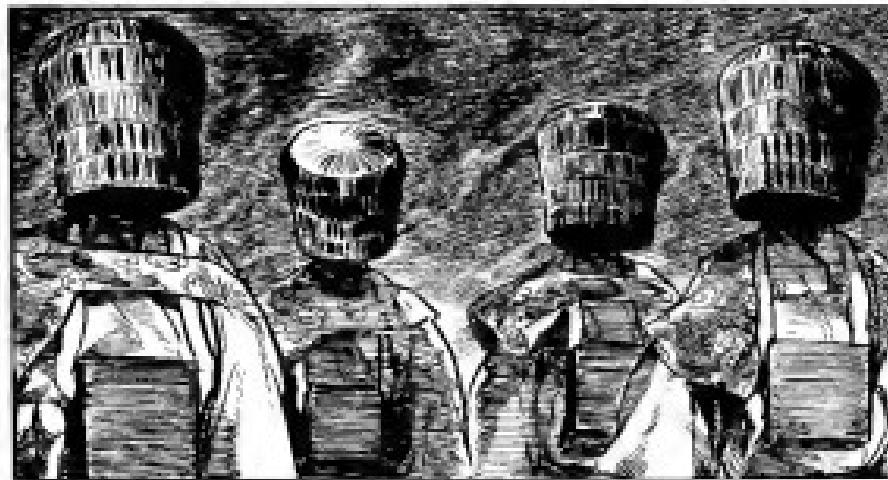
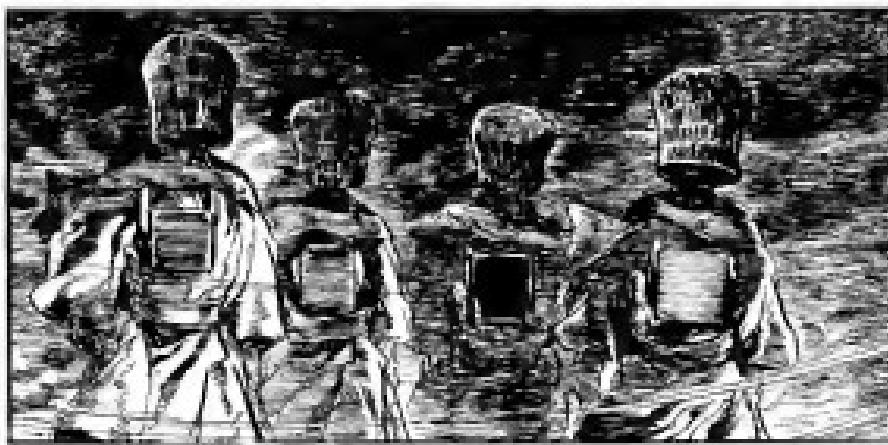
UNLIKE  
THESE BIRDS,  
THE YAMATO WILL  
MOVE UNDER-  
COVER.

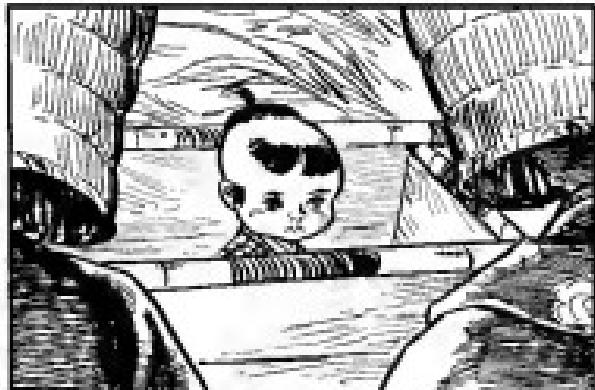
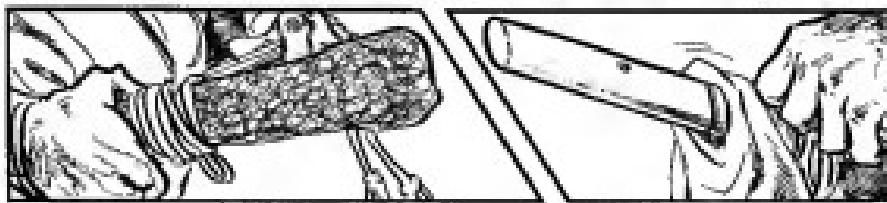
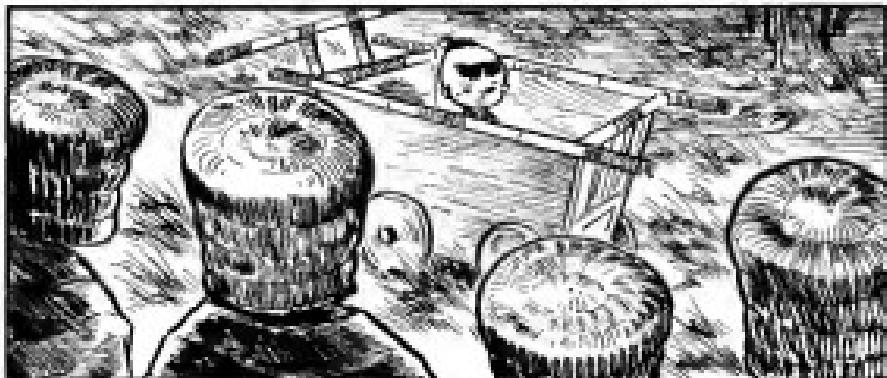
NOW DO  
I FLUSH THEM  
OUT...?

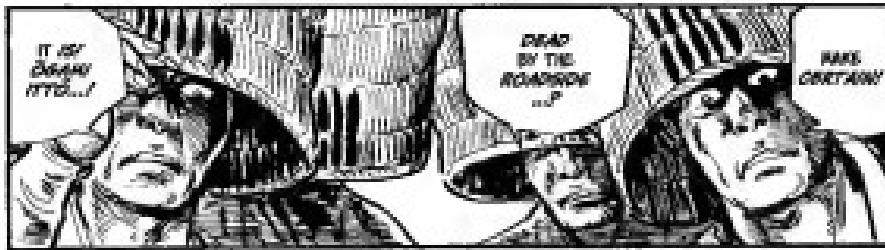




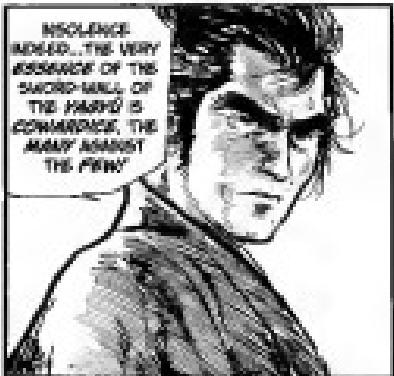










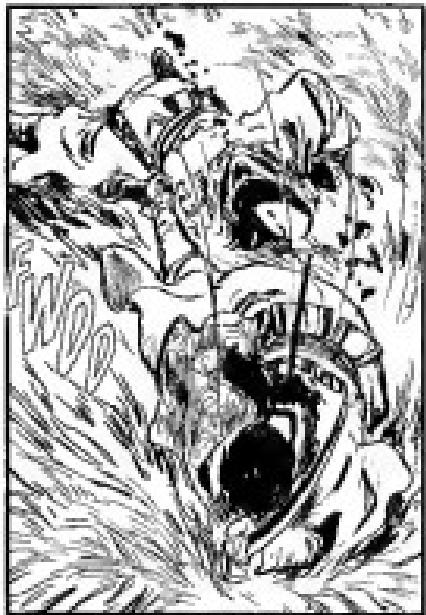














the fortieeth



# The Frozen Crane





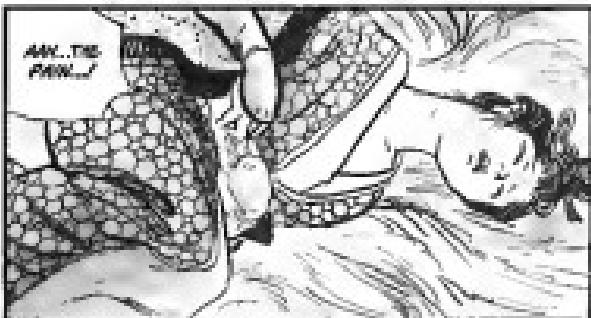


IT'S...  
MY OLD...  
GUARDIAN,  
DON'T

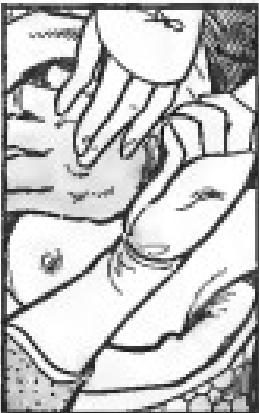


COLD  
WINTER











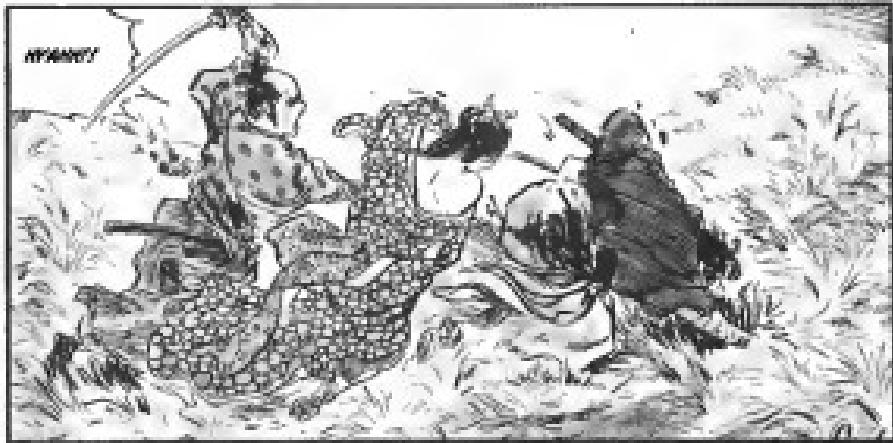






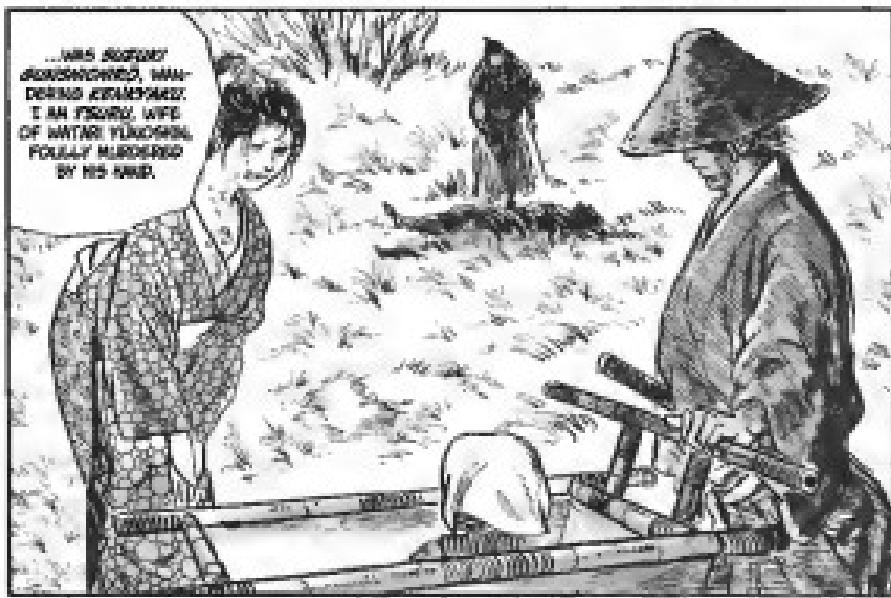


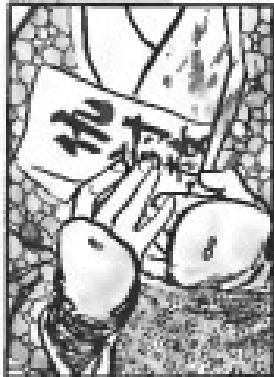






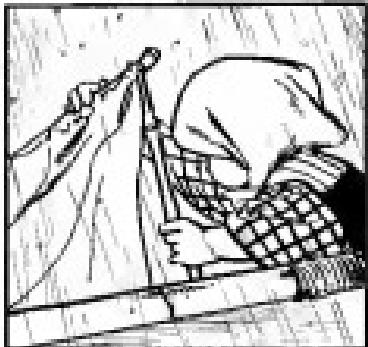






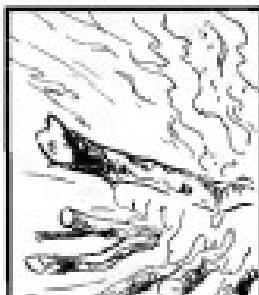








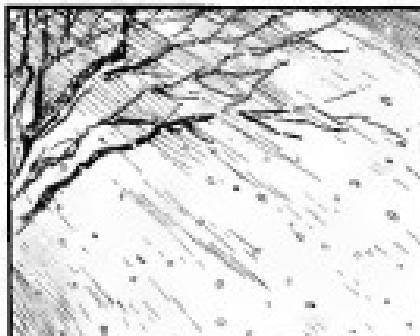










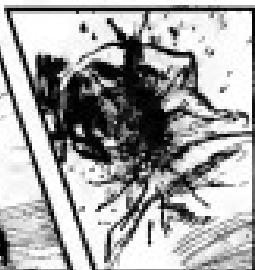




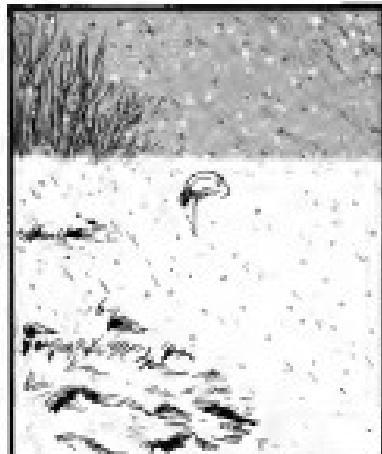
A BITTER IRONY,  
INDEED, YOU FINALLY  
DISPATCH YOUR ENEMY,  
ONLY FOR YOUR LORD  
TO MEET THIS DEATH-  
FUL END.

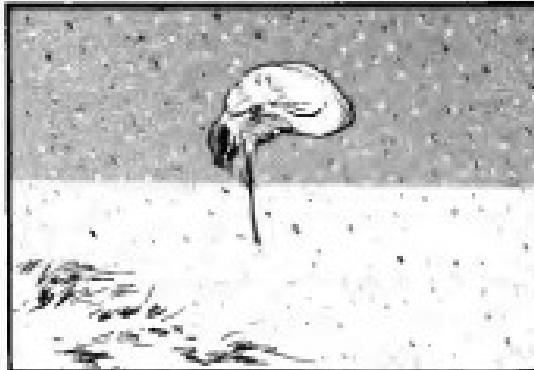
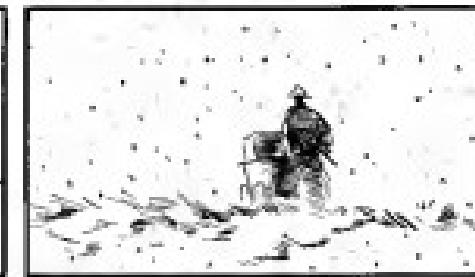
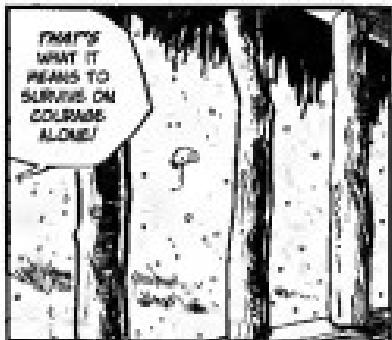










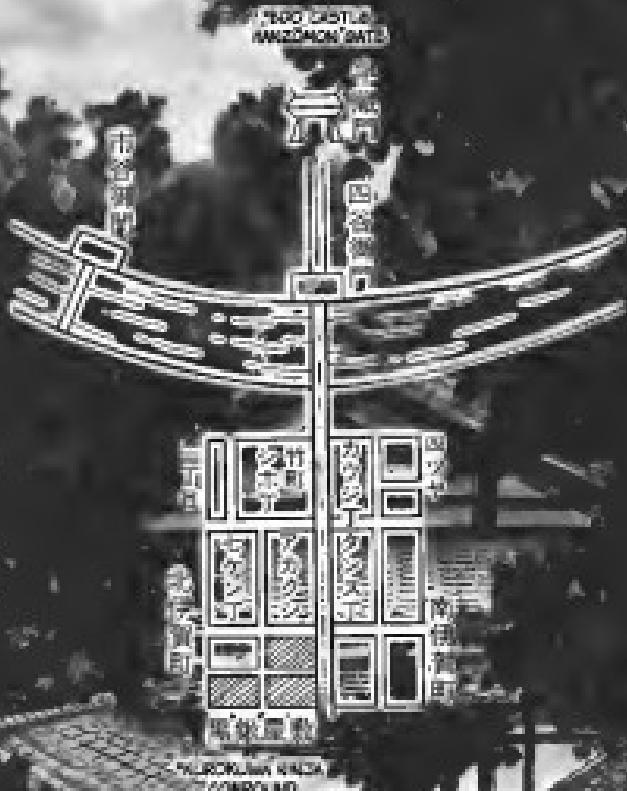


*the forty-first*

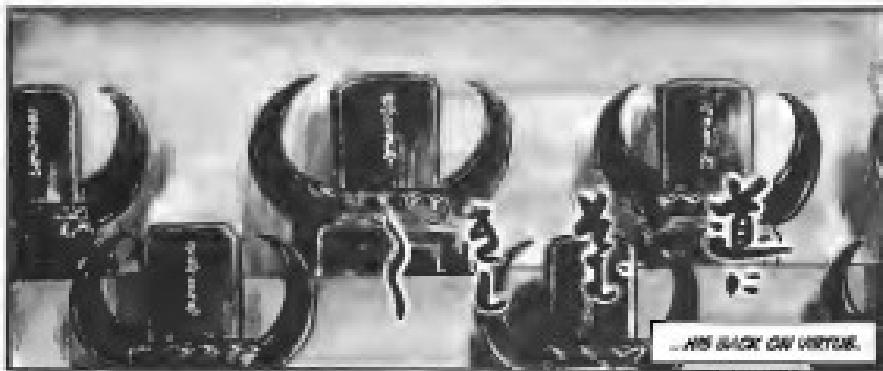
# Chains of Death



KITA ISAR-MACHI  
THE COMPOUND  
OF THE  
KUROKUWA  
NINJA



KUROKUWA NINJA  
COMPOUND





www.wiley.com/go/leibniz

毛井士和子郎

村山兵衛

內向  
作

伊尹集

松山集

破甲序助

卷之三

廣雅文選



**THE GHOST AND GHOSTIN  
CANNOT MAKE THEM CLOSER.**



THE  
WARRIOR  
ADVENTURE  
JOURNAL  
BY  
KATHY



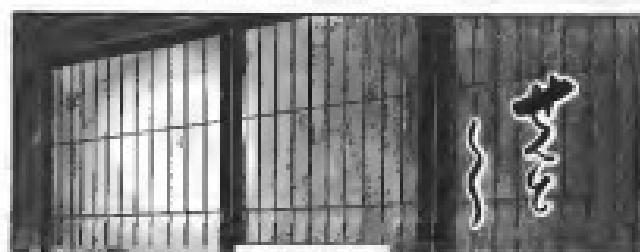
DISCREETLY BREATHED BY THE...



...THE WHOLE PREDICATOR  
NOT THE SALT OF PEACE.



WHO EXCUSES NOT...



...THE SALT OF PEACE NOT



THE SHADOW TURNS...

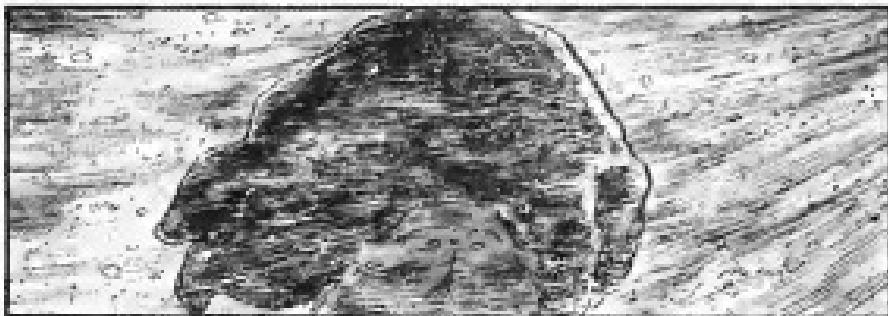


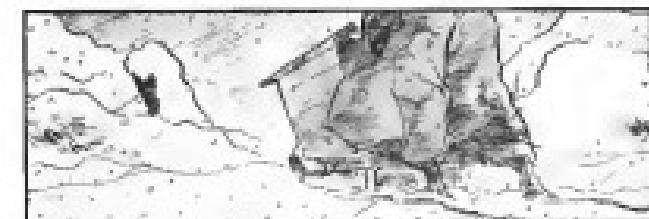
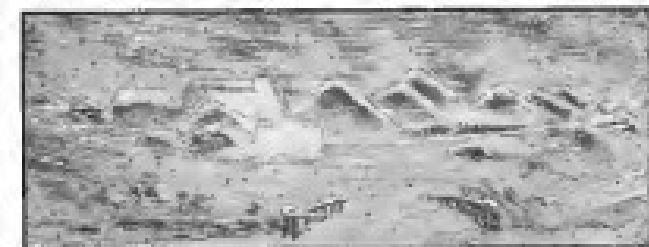


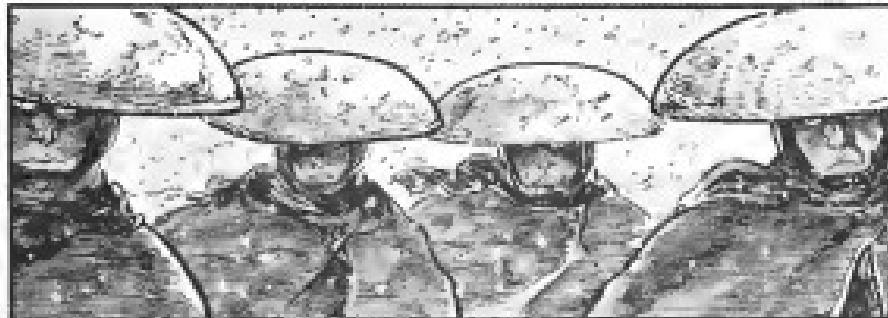
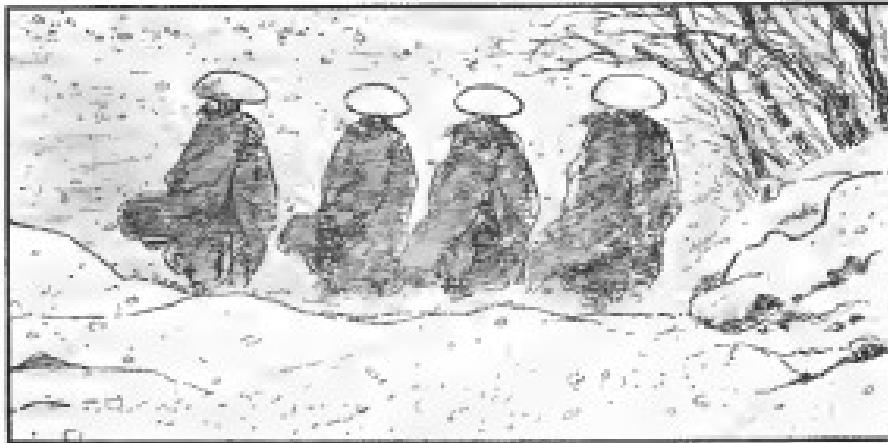
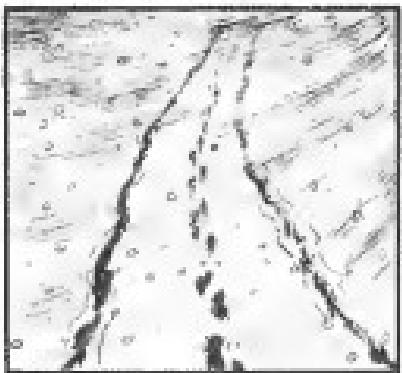




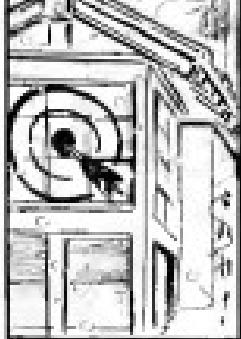
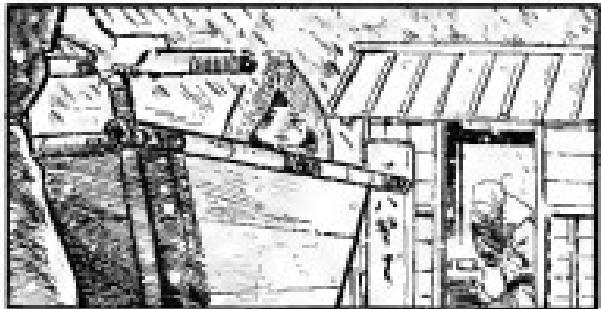


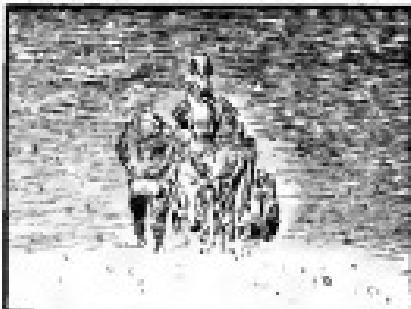


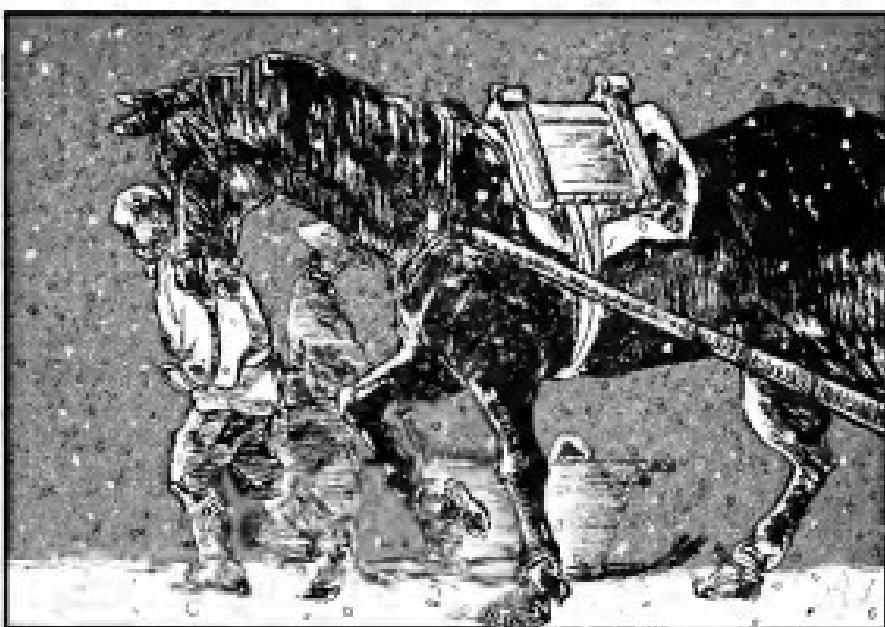






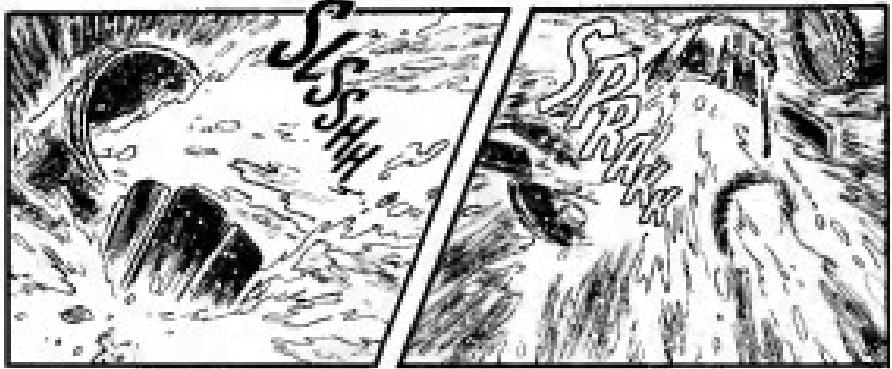




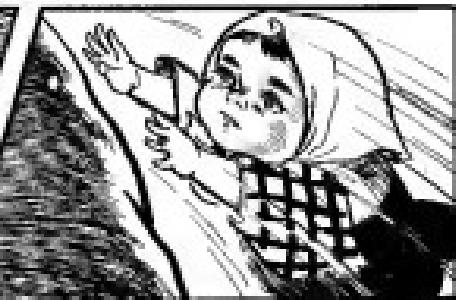
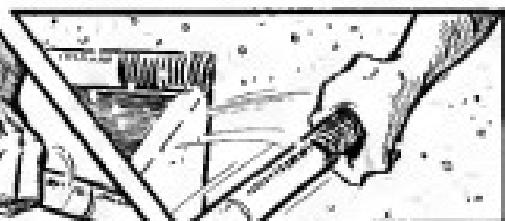
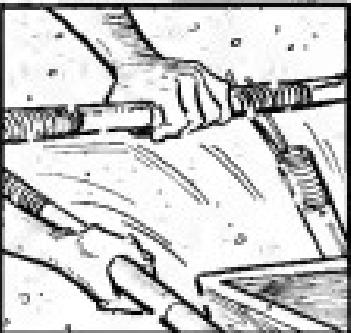


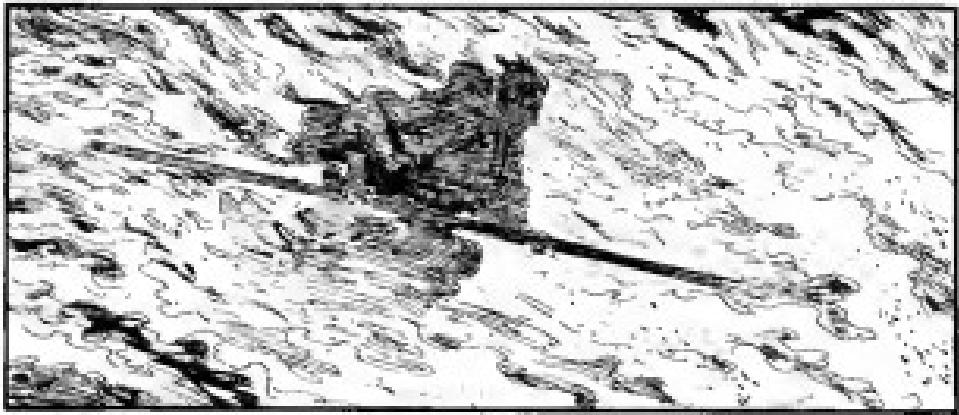


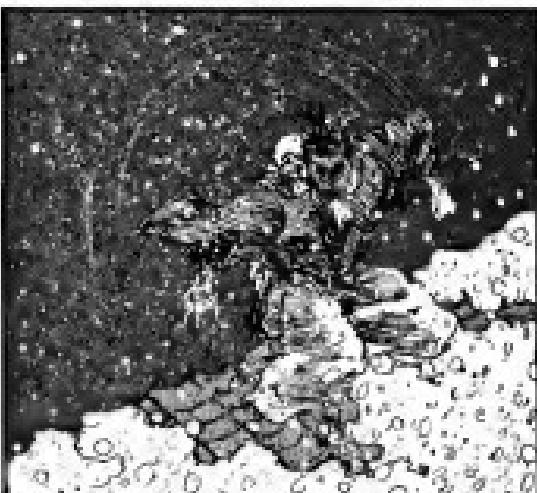
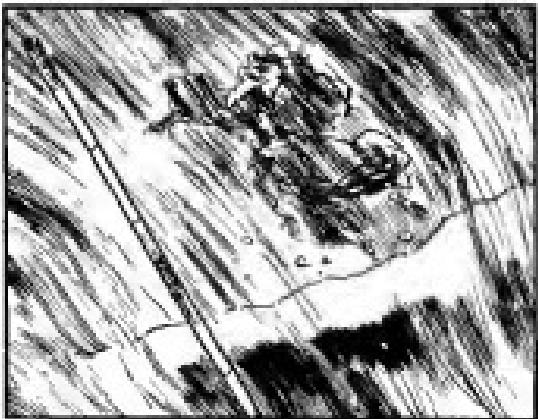


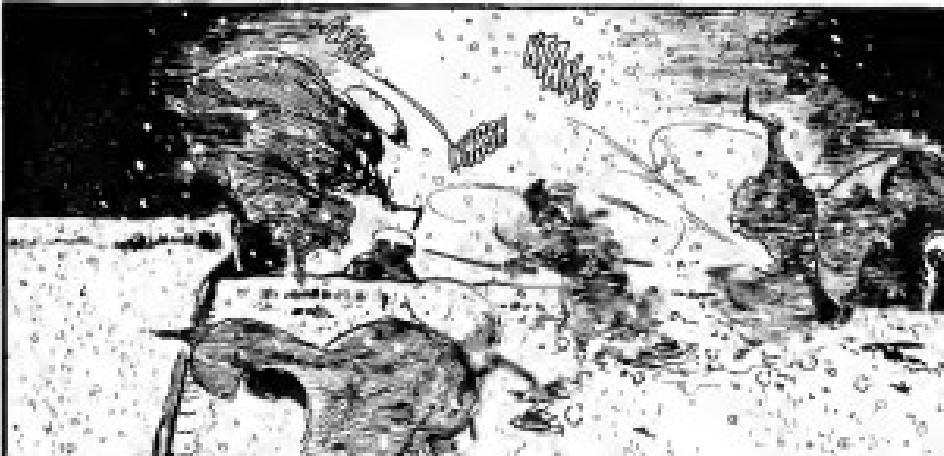


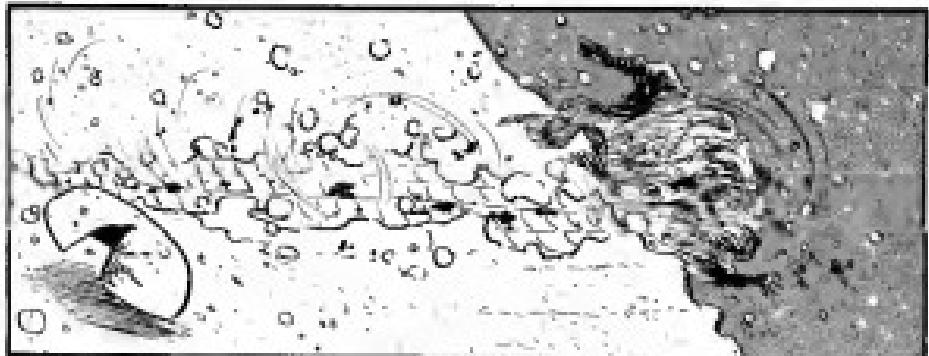
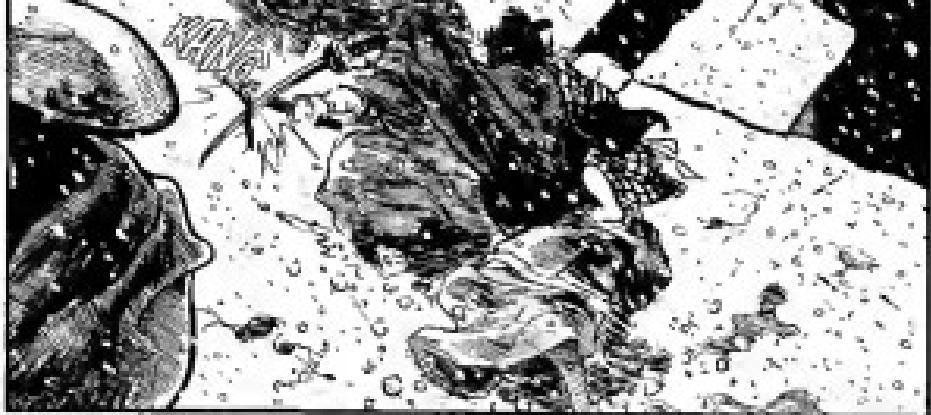




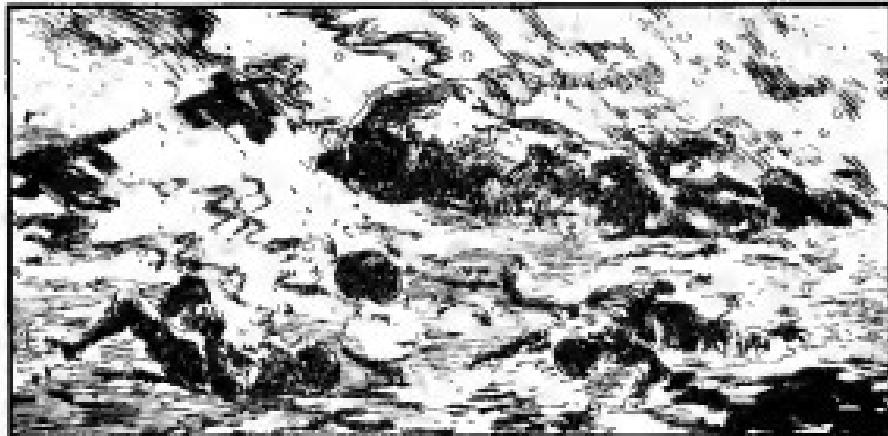
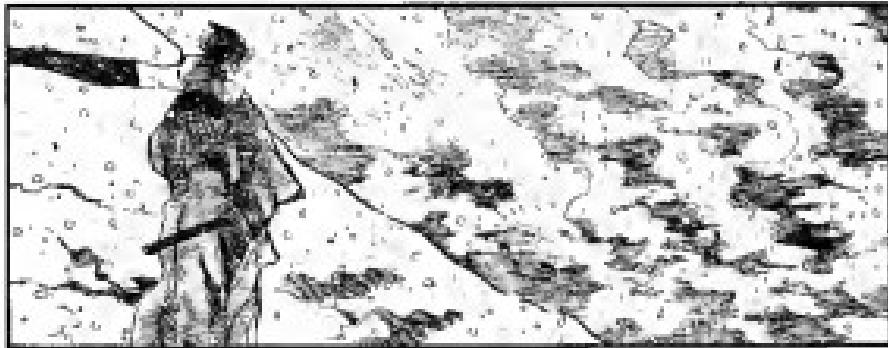




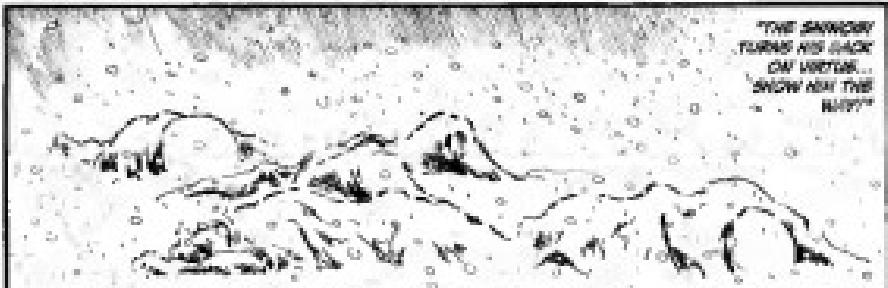




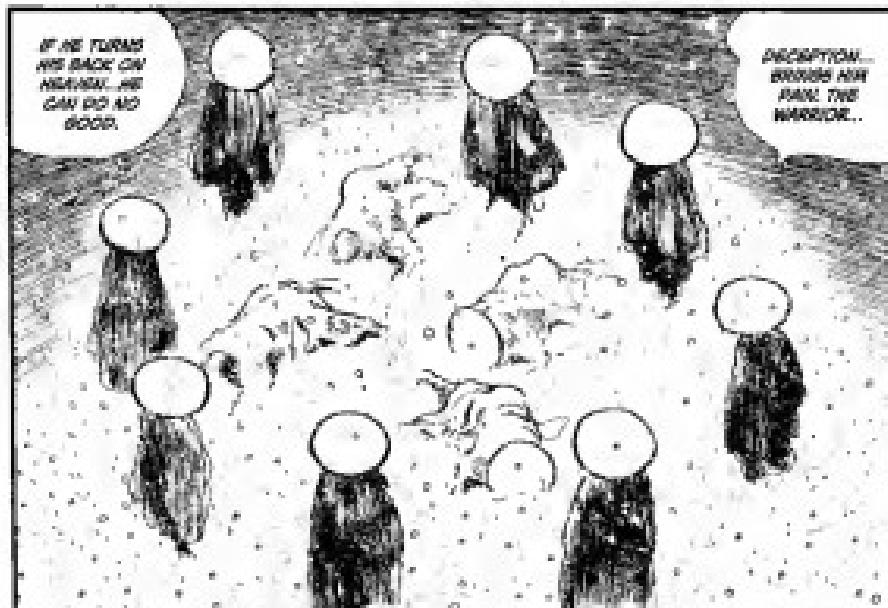


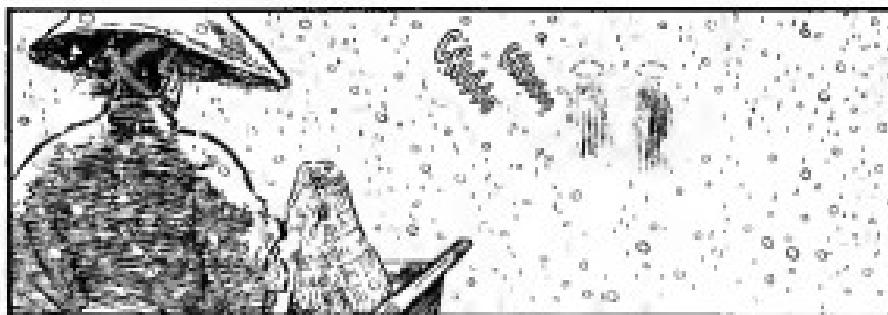


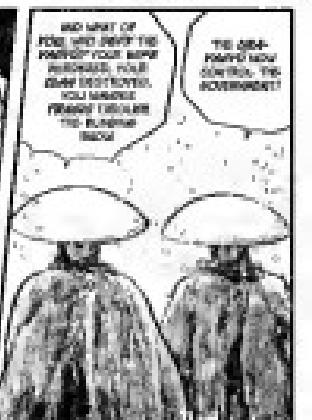
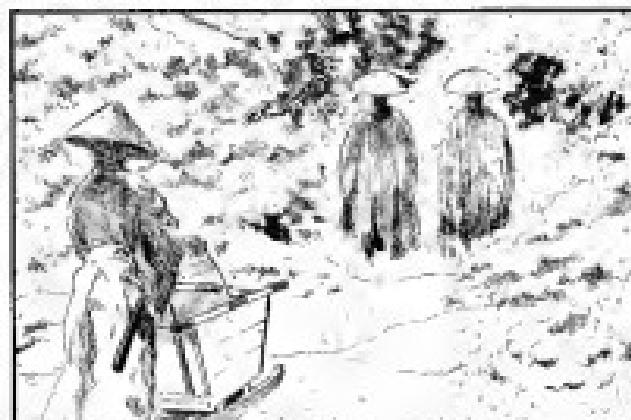




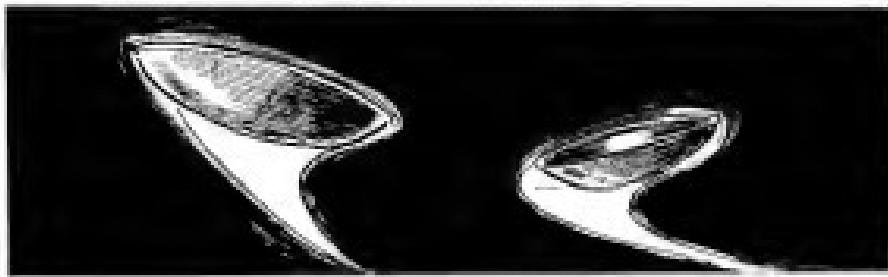
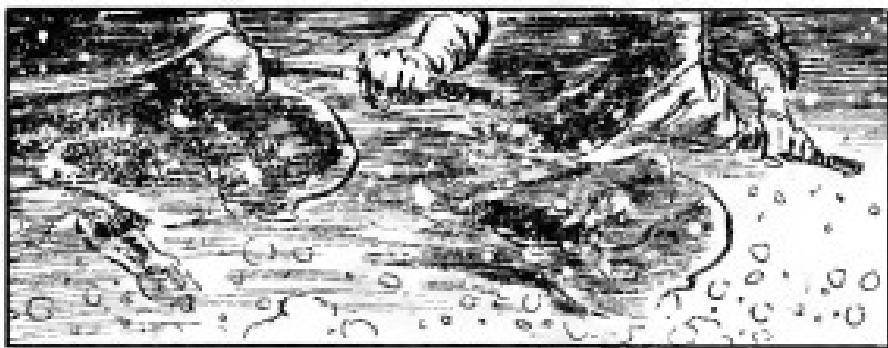
THE SHADOW  
TURNS HIS BACK  
ON VICTORY...  
SHOW HIM THE  
WAY!!

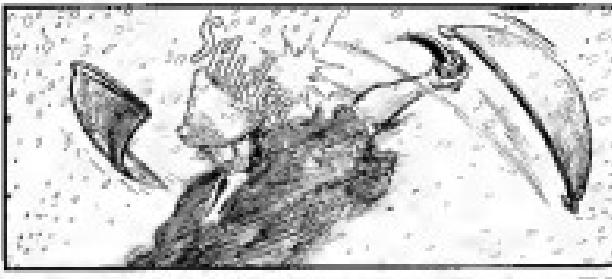
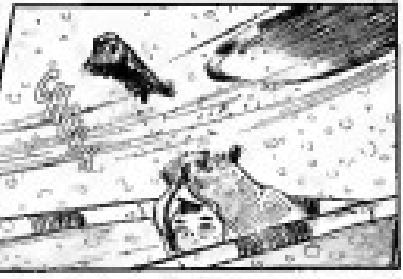
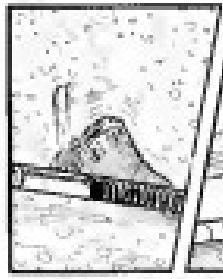


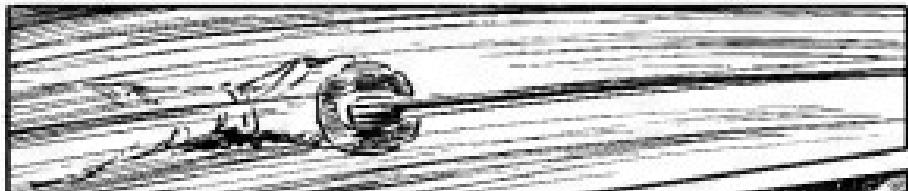


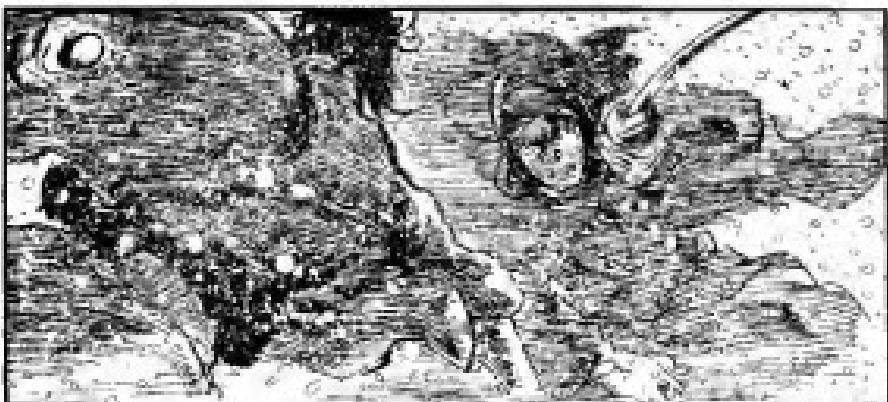


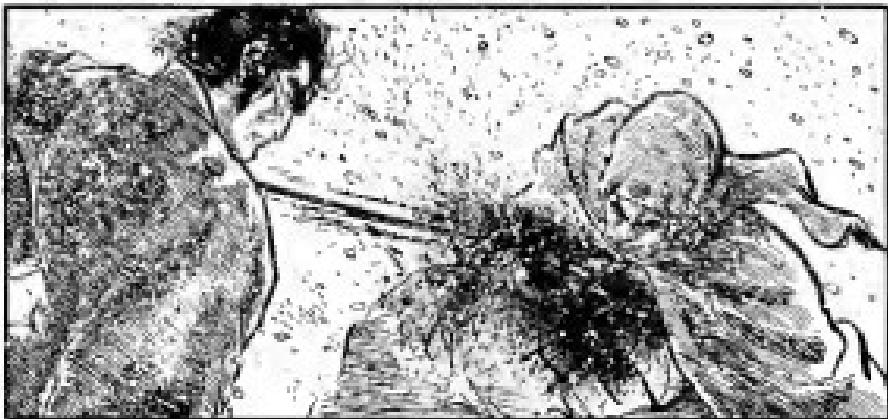


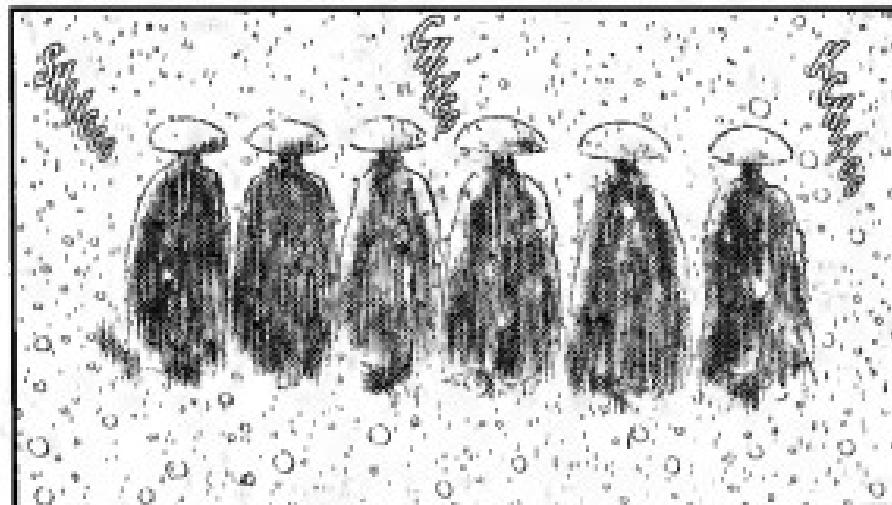
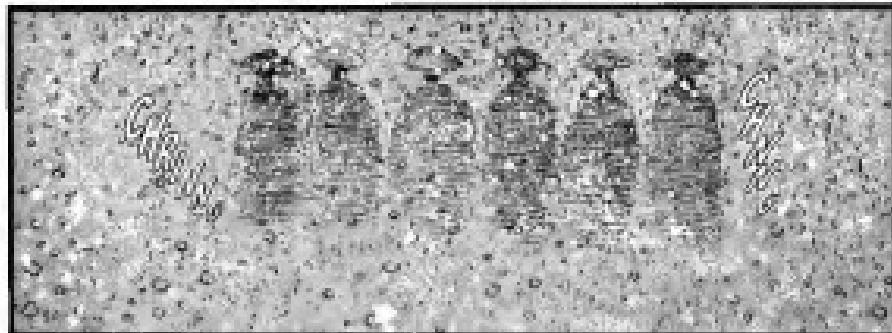
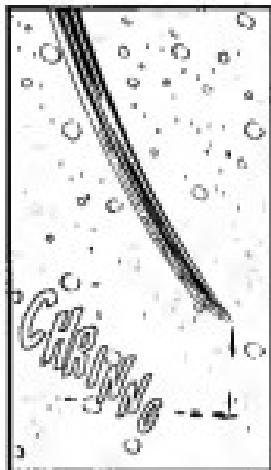


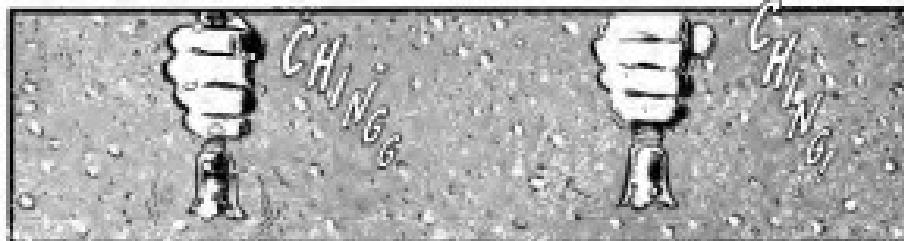


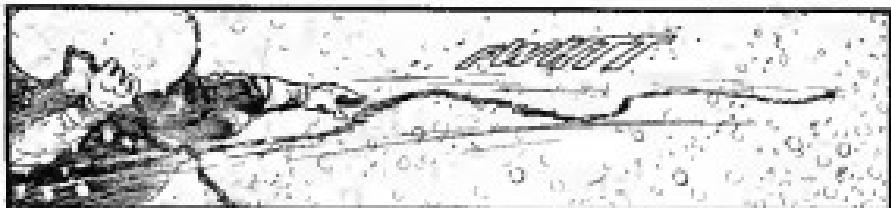
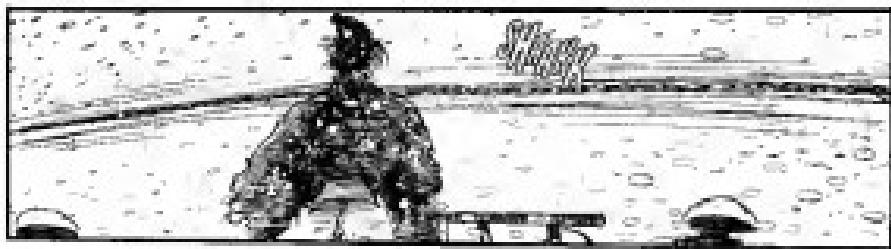
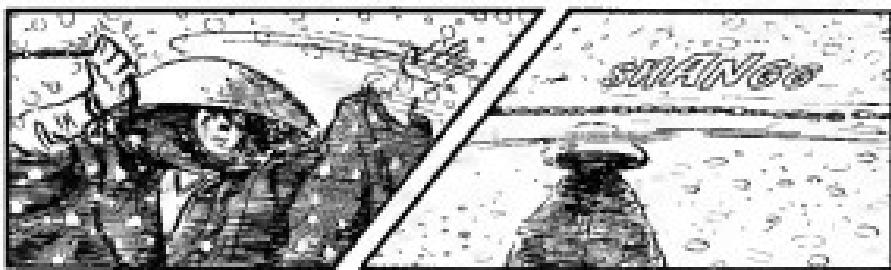
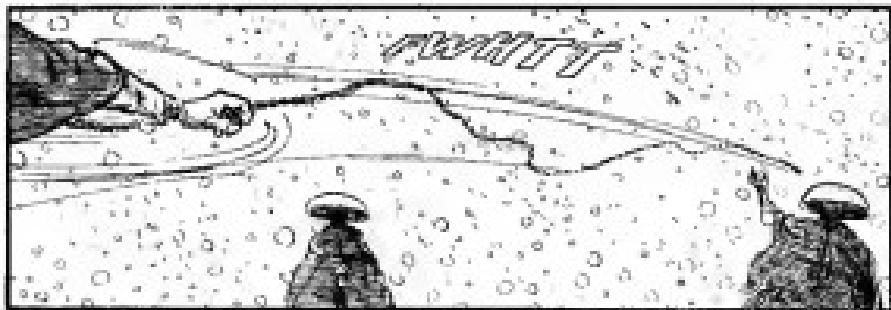


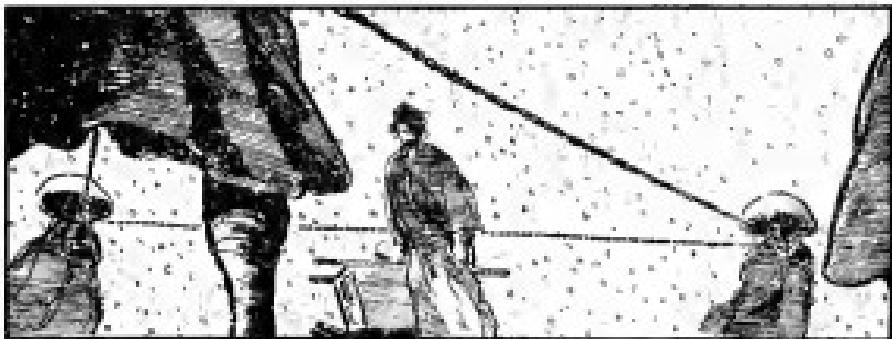
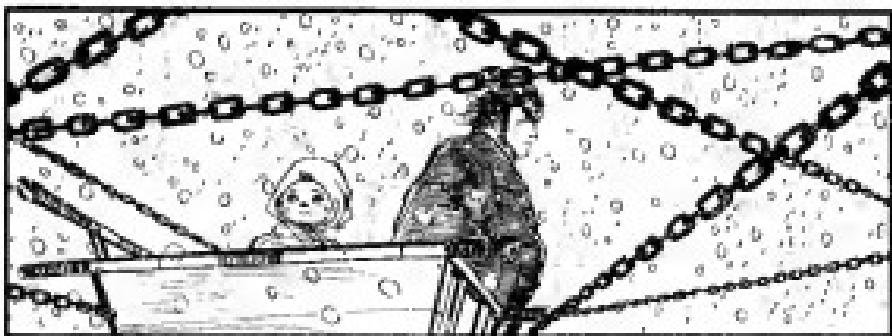


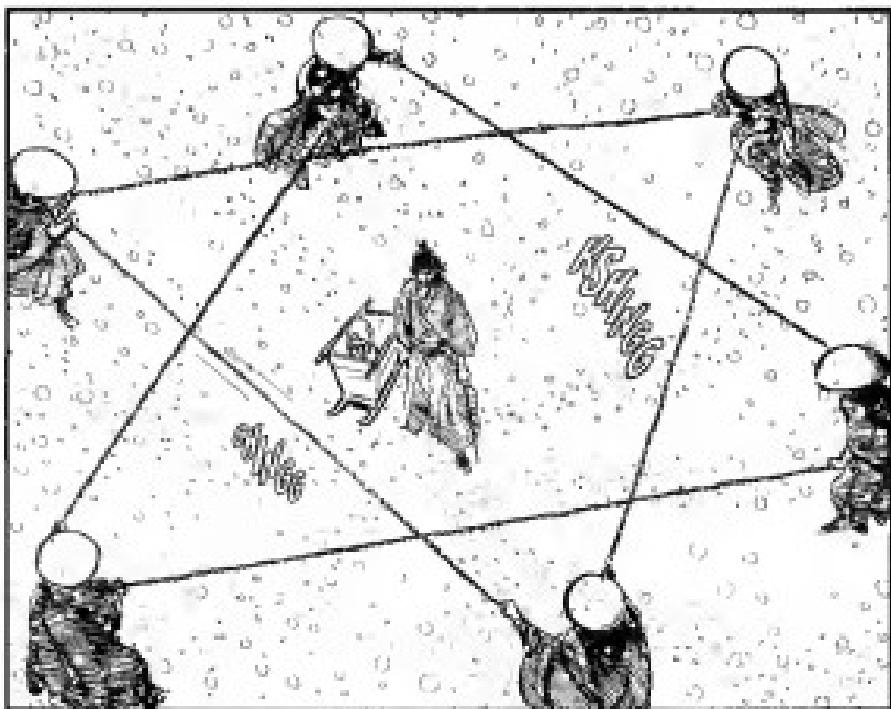


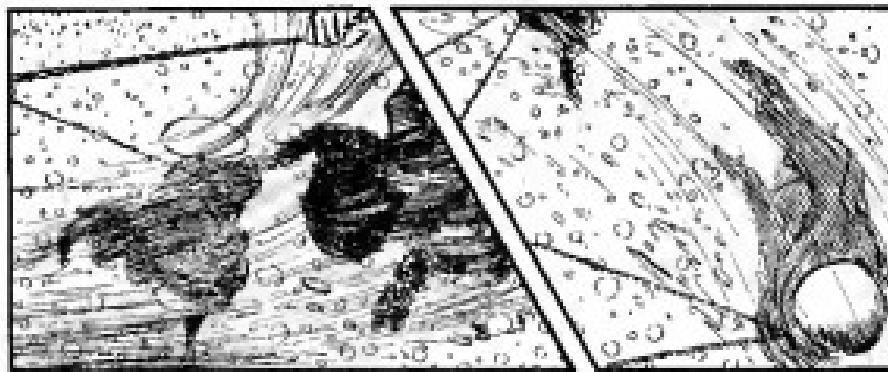
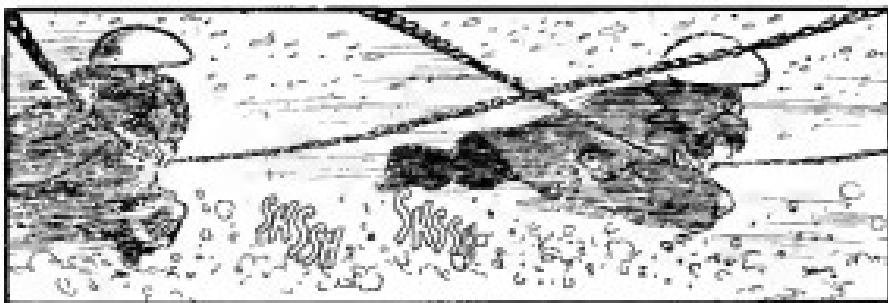


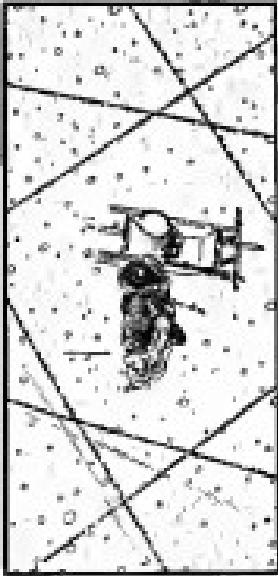
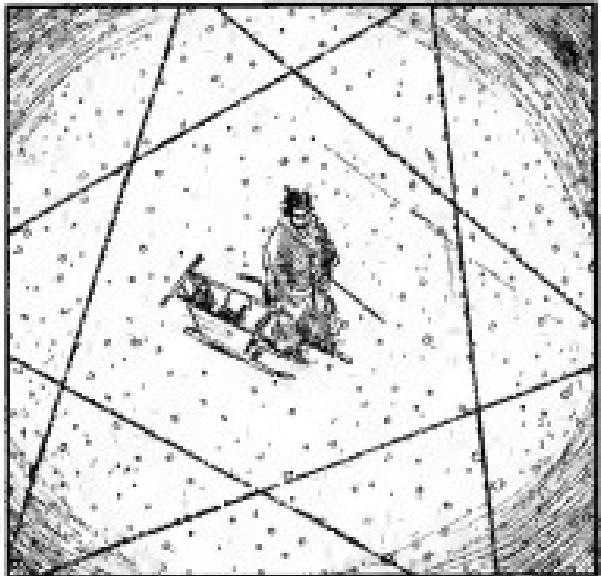


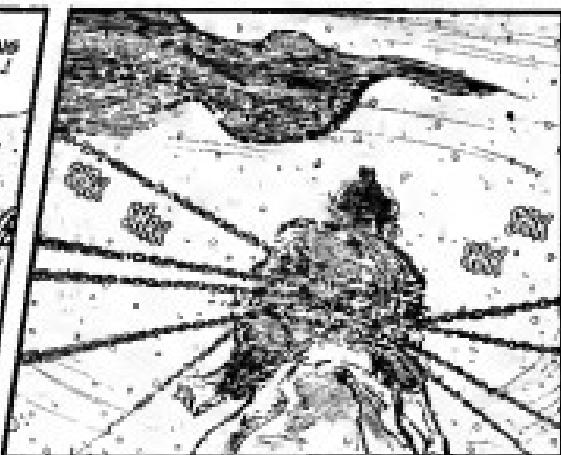
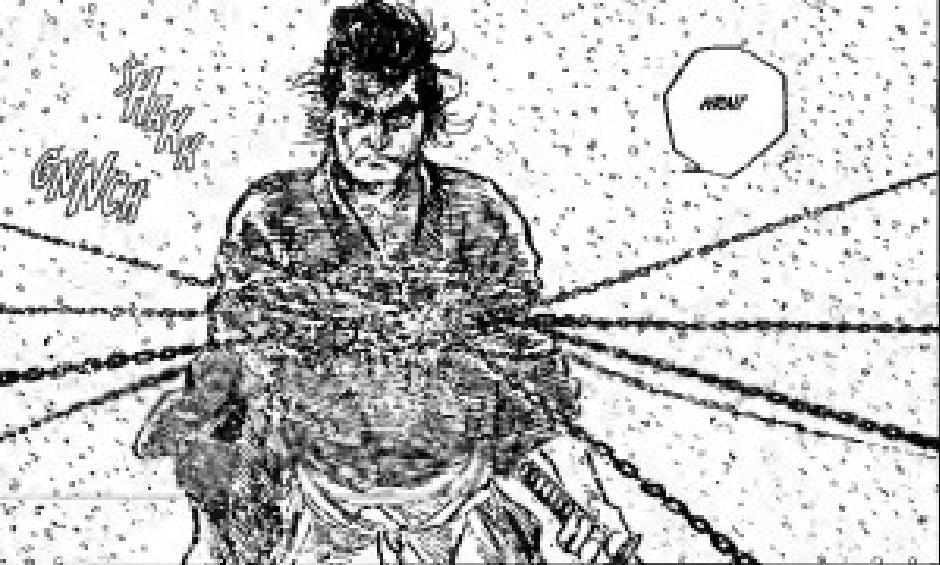


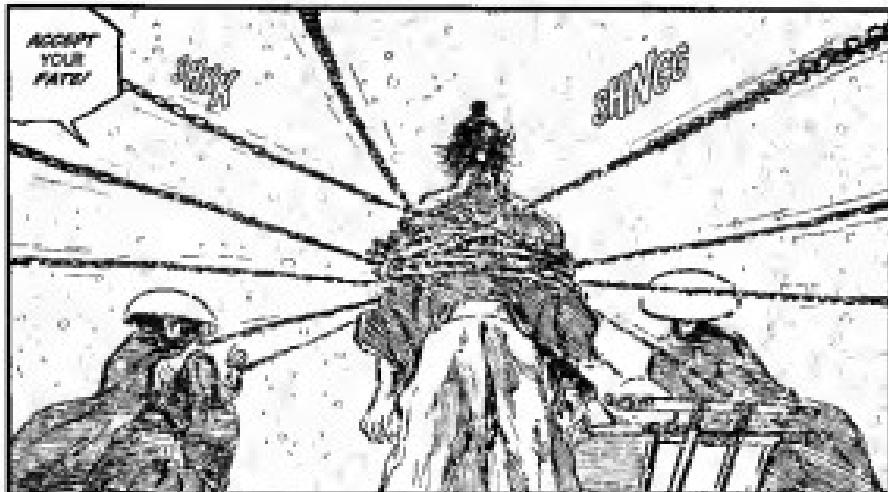
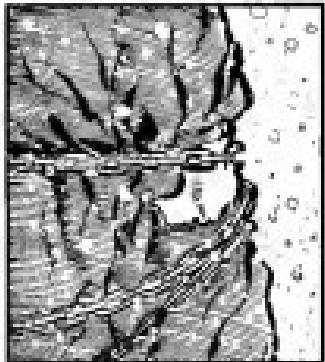


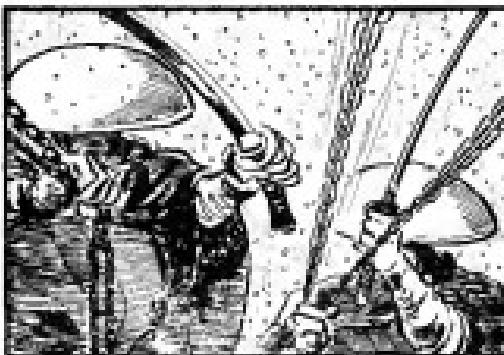
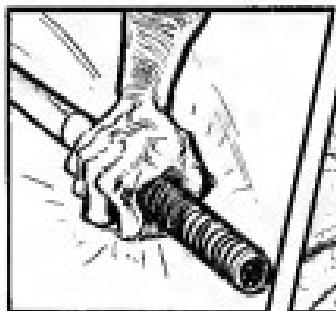
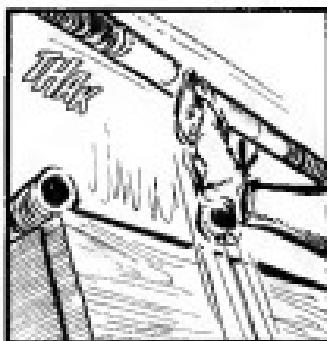
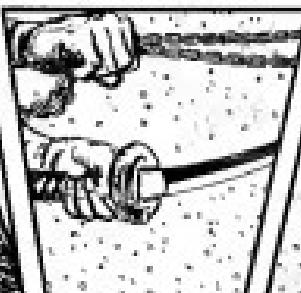


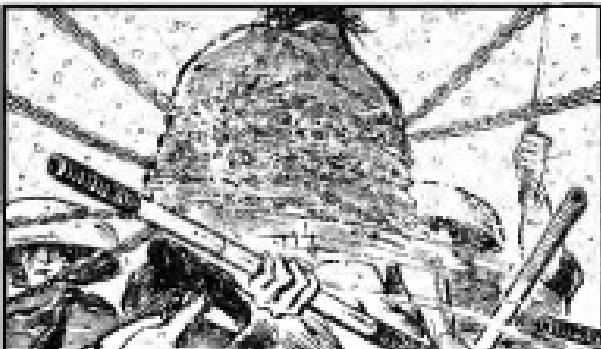
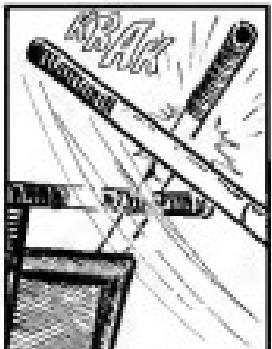


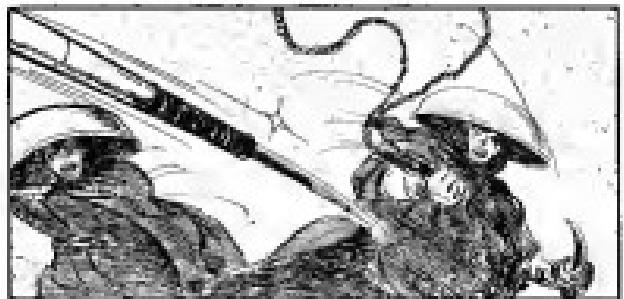




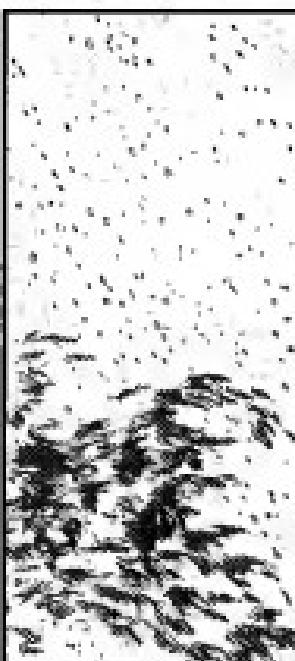
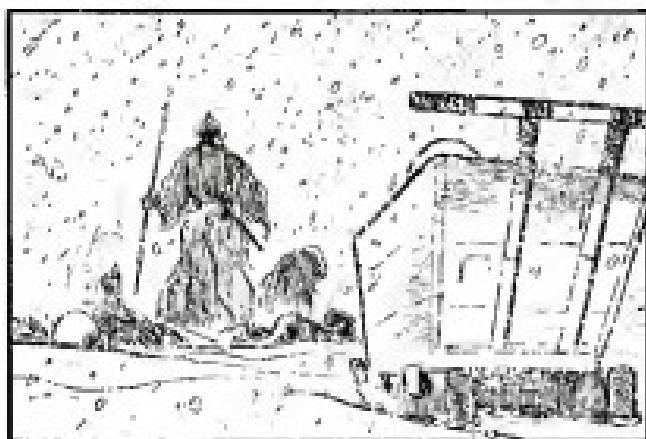
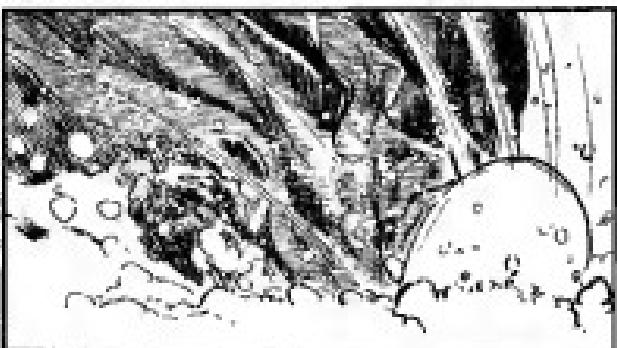


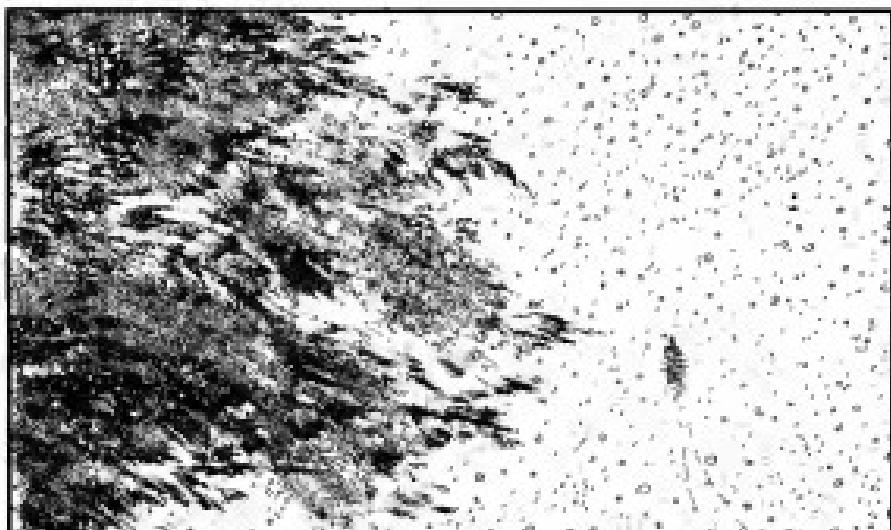
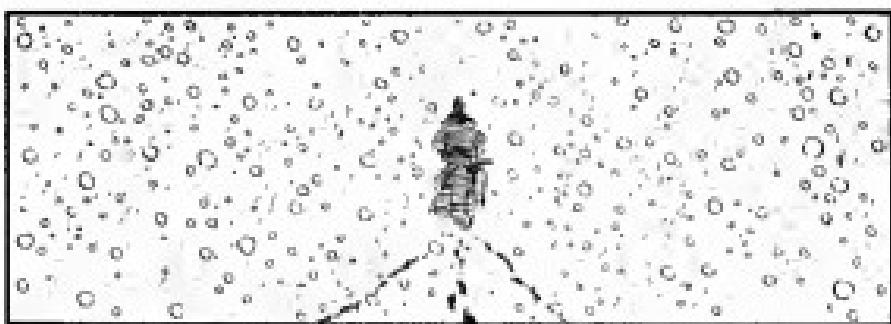














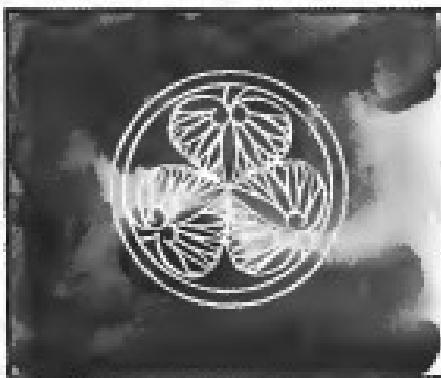
*the forty-second*

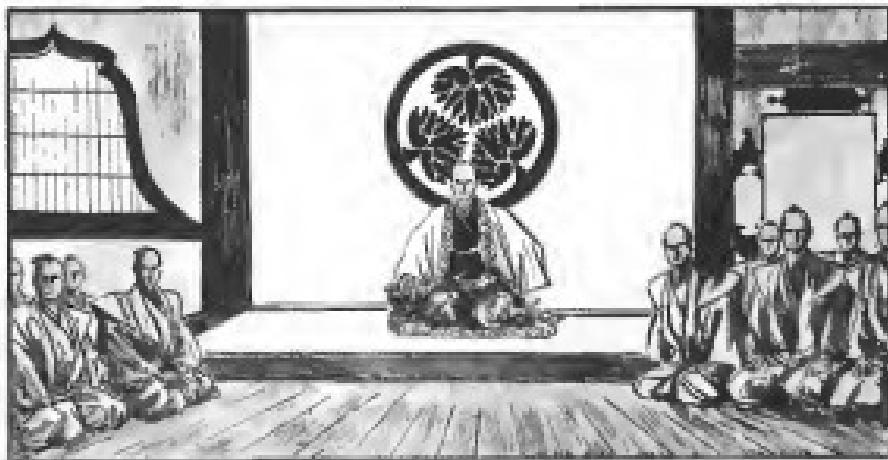
# The Infinite Path

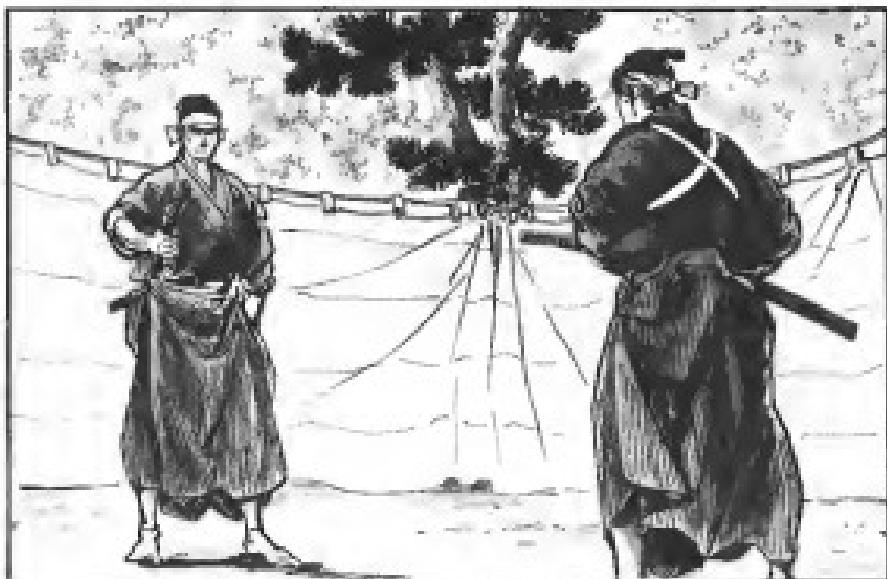
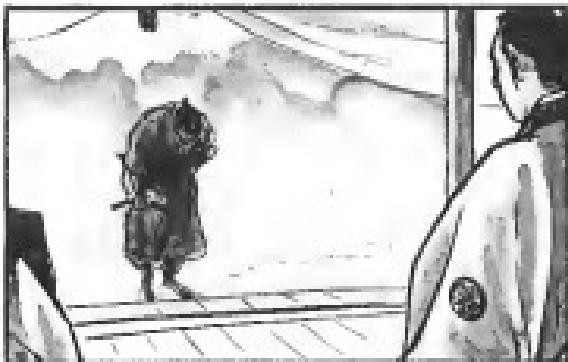






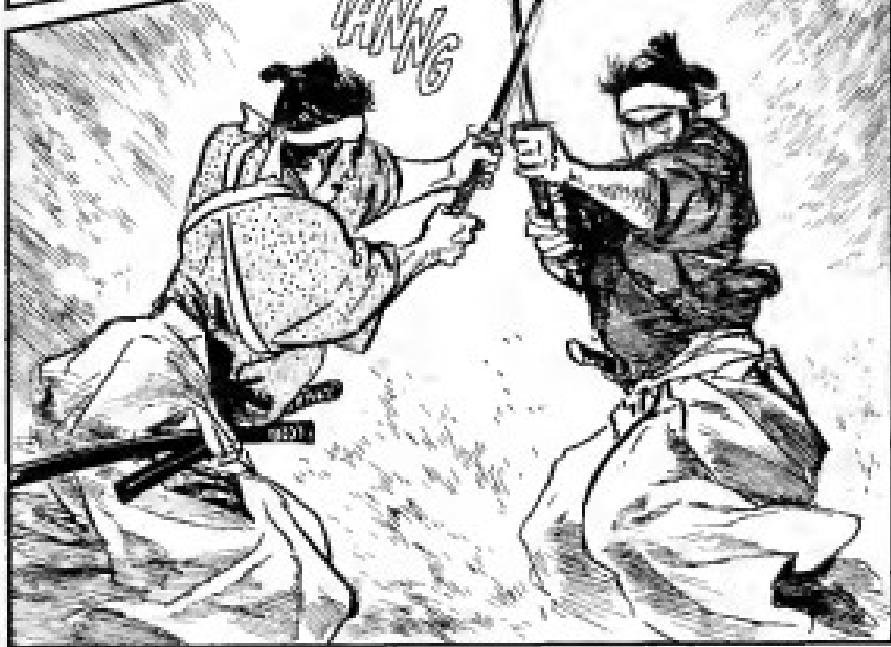




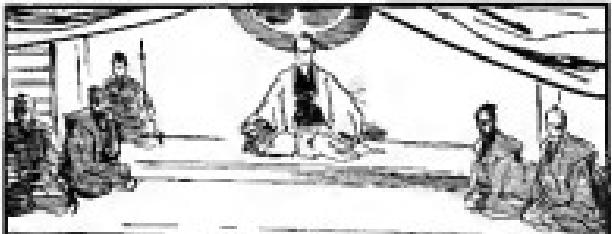


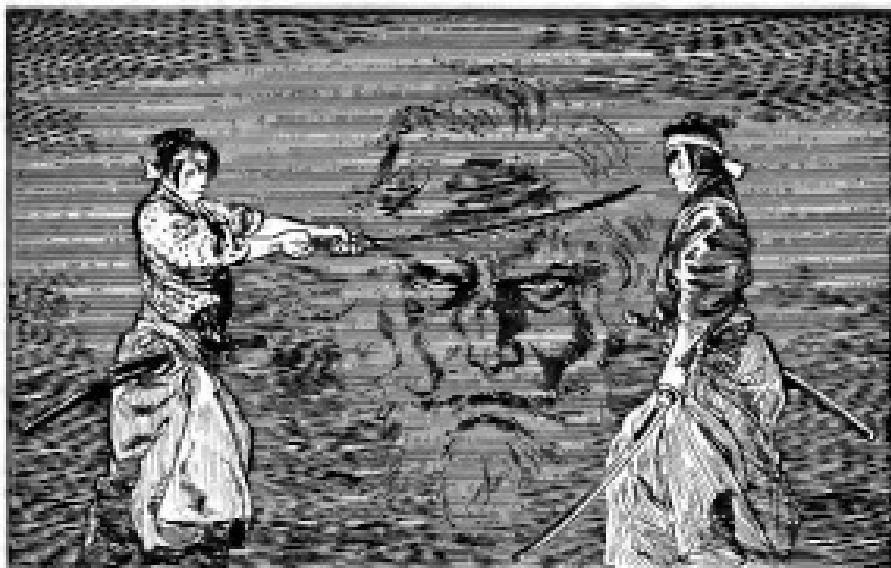
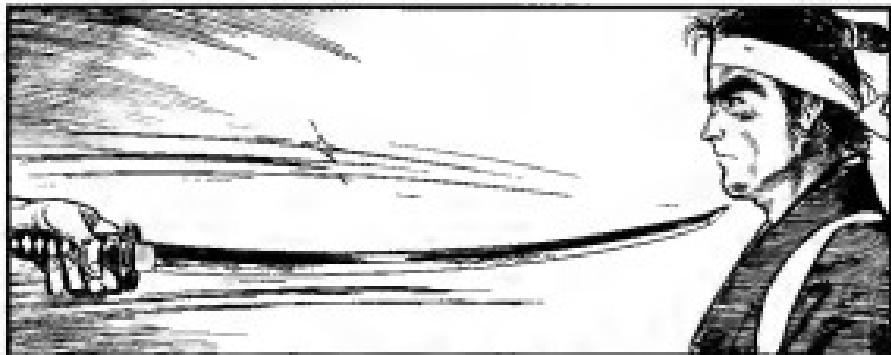










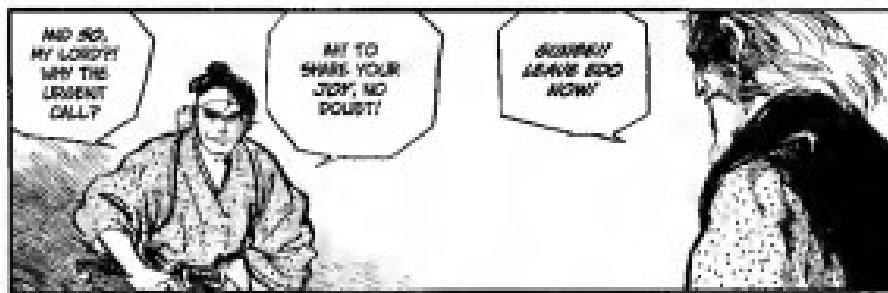












BUT...BUT, FATHER!  
I'M DEGRADED ITTO! I'LL  
BE JEOPARDIZING  
MANY THE NORTH  
LANDS...!!

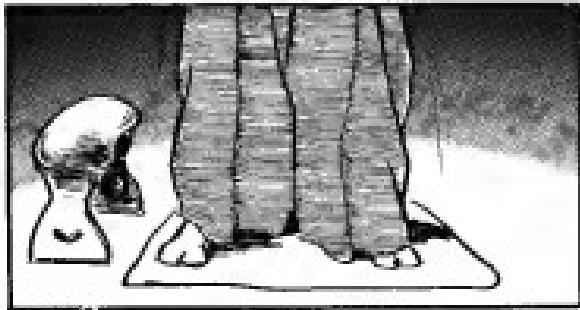
YOU FOOL!

DRAKE ITTO  
SHALL BE JEOPARDIZING



FOR IT TO  
EVEN APPEAR  
THAT WE'VE TURNED  
UPON OUR MASTERS  
IS BEFORE  
PREDICT

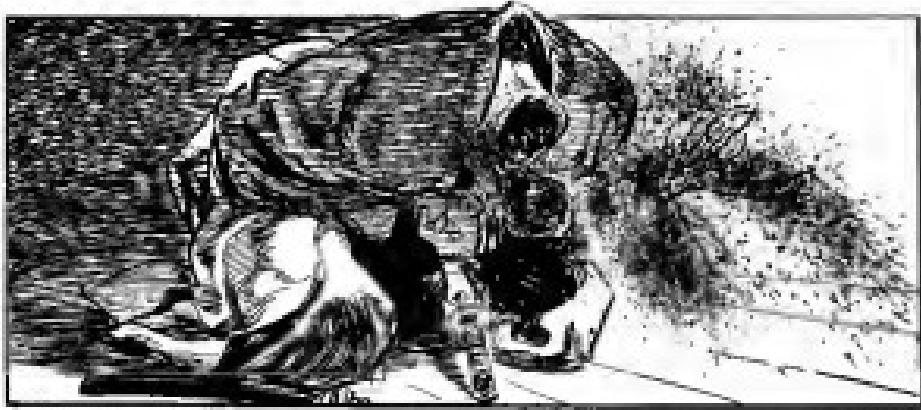
IF YOU'D RUN HIM THROUGH,  
WE COULD SAY YOU LOST YOUR  
HEAD IN THE REAT OF JEFFTEM BUT  
ADON'T YOU STOPPED YOUR SHODO  
IN THE FINAL INSTANT TO PLANT  
YOUR TECHNIQUE? WHO WILL  
BELIEVE US NOW?!!  
NO ONE!!







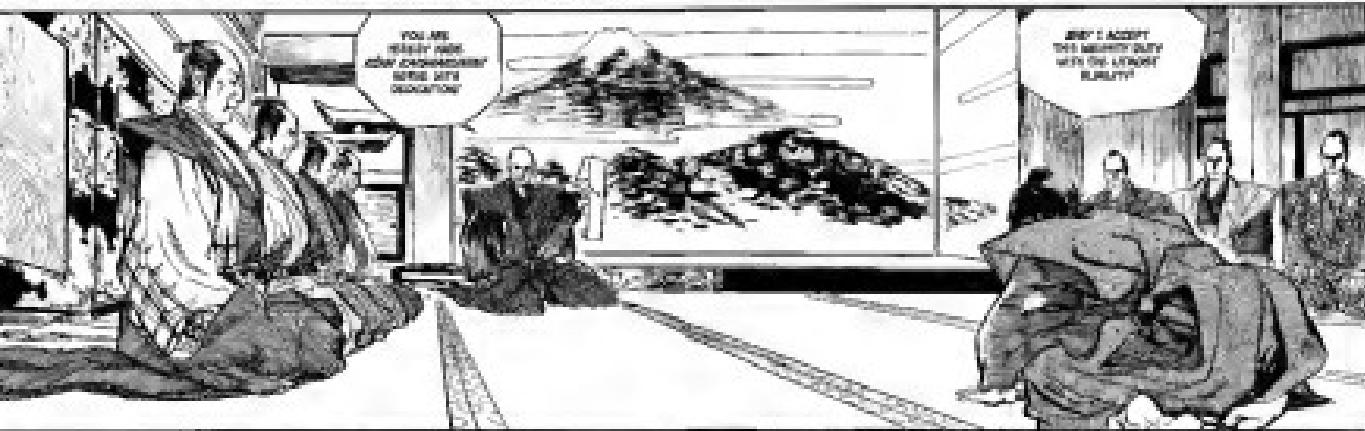


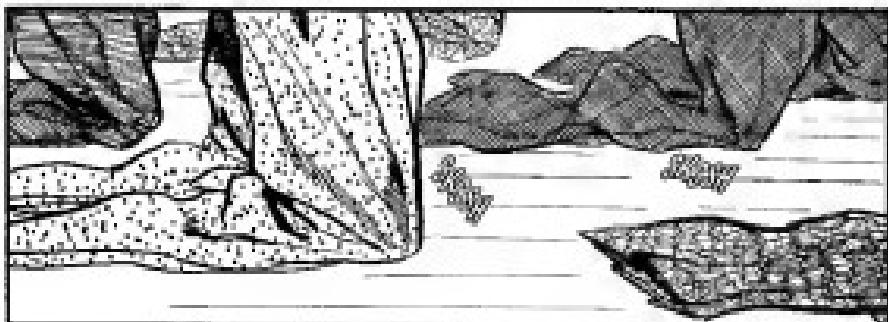


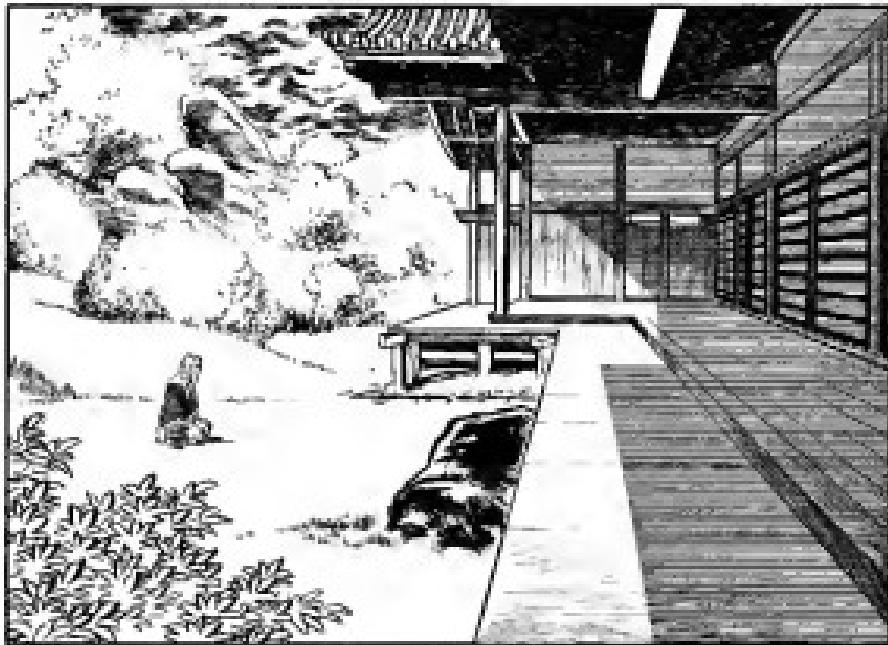
OSAMI ITTO HAS  
DEFEATED THE SWORDS  
OF THE YAEGAKI. FROM NOW  
ON THE OSAMI CLAN WILL BE  
READY TO DEFEND OUR LAND.  
ITTO WILL WEAR THE HOLLYROCK  
CREST OF THE  
YAEGAKI.

IT WILL BE ITTO  
WHO WILL STRIKE FEAR  
INTO THE HEARTS OF OSAMI.  
THROUGHOUT THIS LAND, THE  
FAME OF HIS SWORD AND  
HIS WARRIOR SPIRIT  
WILL STAND!















REGARDING  
THE SELECTION  
OF KOGI-YA  
SHIMIZUWA...

...I HUMBLY  
WISH TO KNOW  
THE REASON FOR  
OYAMADA-DAIJO'S  
APPOINTMENT.



I INTENDED TO INFORM YOU  
OF THIS PRIVATELY. AND  
FURTHER, THAT IT WAS THE  
WILL OF OUR LORD THAT  
SHIMIZU BE PLACED UNDER  
HOUSE ARREST.



JUST  
AS I  
THOUGHT...



YET...  
IF YOU WISH  
TO HEAR  
DIRECTLY,  
I SHALL  
SPEAK.

IT IS AS YOU HAVE  
SAID. DURING THE DUEL,  
THE TIP OF SHIMIZU'S SWORD  
POINTED AT THE SPINE. OYAMADA  
ITTO SACRIFICED HIMSELF  
TO BLOCK IT.

I MUST ADMIT TO OUR SHAME THAT AT FIRST WE DID NOT NOTICE MURASUKE'S SWORD THREATENED OUR LORD. NOR THAT ODAKI ITTO BLOCKED IT.

DELIVERING SHIGEMI'S VICTORY TO BE ABSOLUTE, WE WERE PREPARED TO APPOINT HIM WITHOUT WAITING A FINAL JUDGMENT, HOWEVER...

THANKS TO THE SHARP EYES OF MATSUOKA SUO-DONO...



WE SOUGHT OUR LORD'S OPINION AND RECEIVED HIS HONORED CONSIDERATION THAT INDEED, SUO SPOKE TRUE.



YET YOUR CONDUCT IS ADVANCED, KAWAI-PONCO, AND SHIGEMI'S DEATH SWARMED.

SUCH RESOLUTION IS BRAVE, AND I MIGHT ADD, IT RESTORES OUR FACE FOR HAVING NOMINATED SHIGEMI IN THE FIRST PLACE.



SUO'S COMMENTS WERE APPROPRIATE...

...BUT, PERHAPS A LITTLE ANGRY.

.....



Indeed, Gassai has now demonstrated his loyalty to our lord in private, and of course, technically, he also won the duel.

So while it is true his sword pointed toward our lord, and Otsu ito stood in its path, perhaps there was no "direct" connection...

Heavily shaded panels show three men in traditional Japanese clothing. The man on the left is looking down at something off-panel. The man in the center is looking towards the right. The man on the right is looking towards the left.

TRUE...  
Indeed...

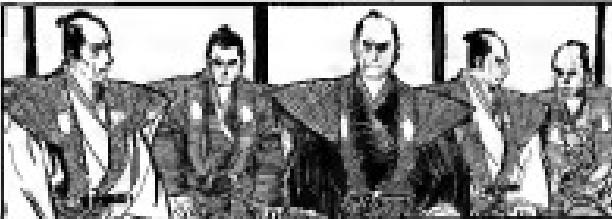
No, my lords...  
Now that Otsu  
Ito is away  
again, we  
shall let  
ourselves by  
ourselves.

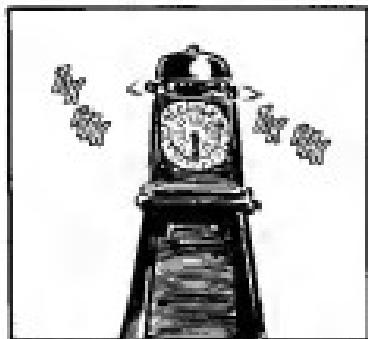
...and  
support  
her with all  
our heart.

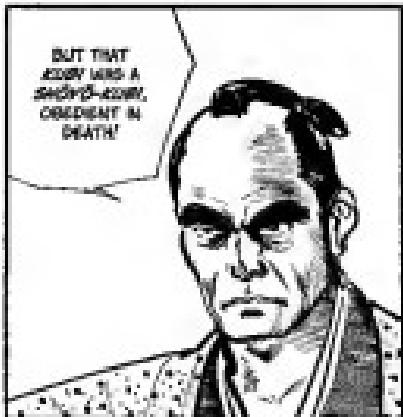
I thank  
you for  
these  
words.





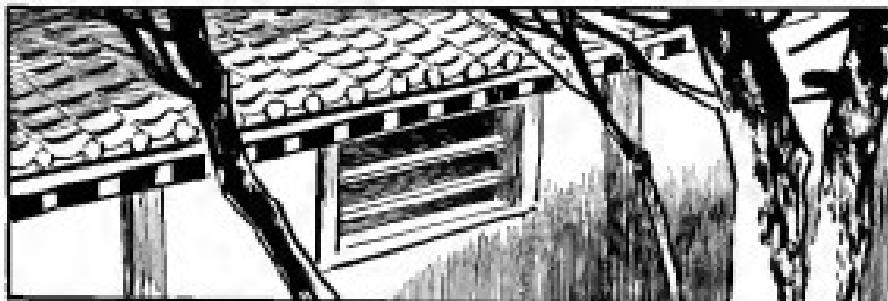
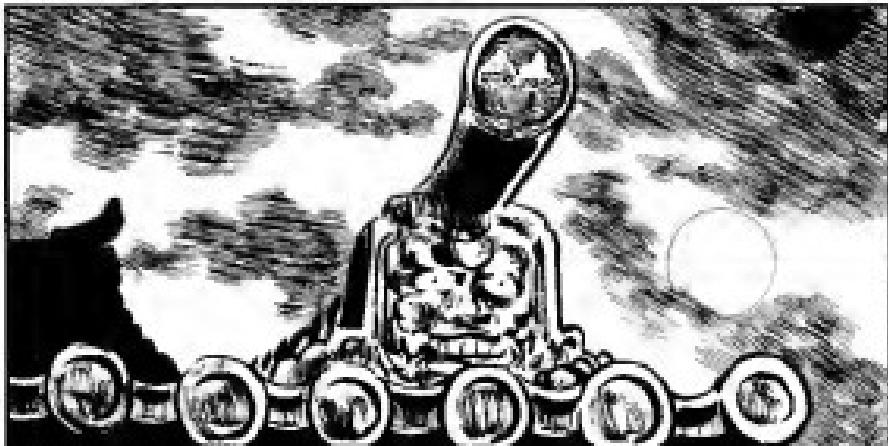




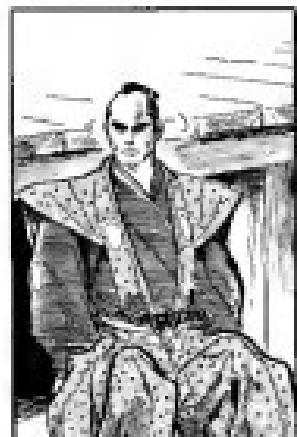
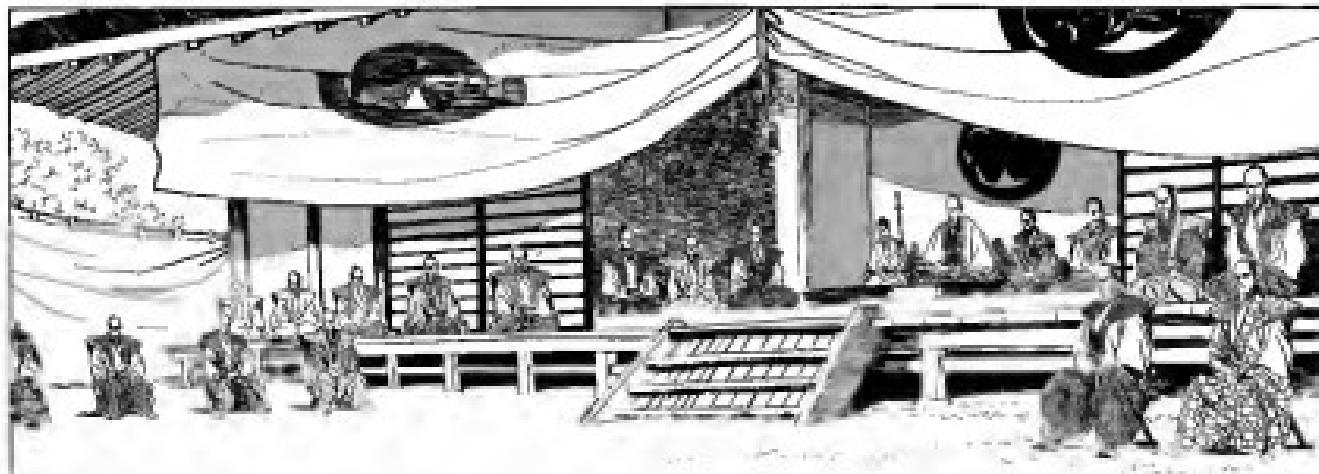


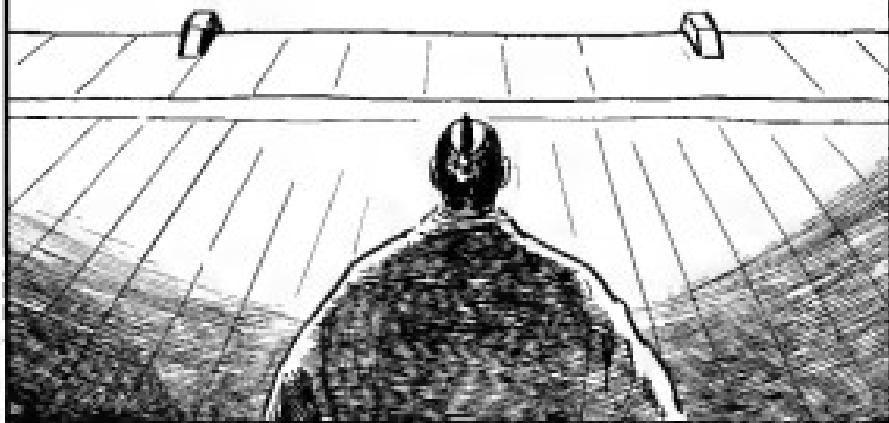
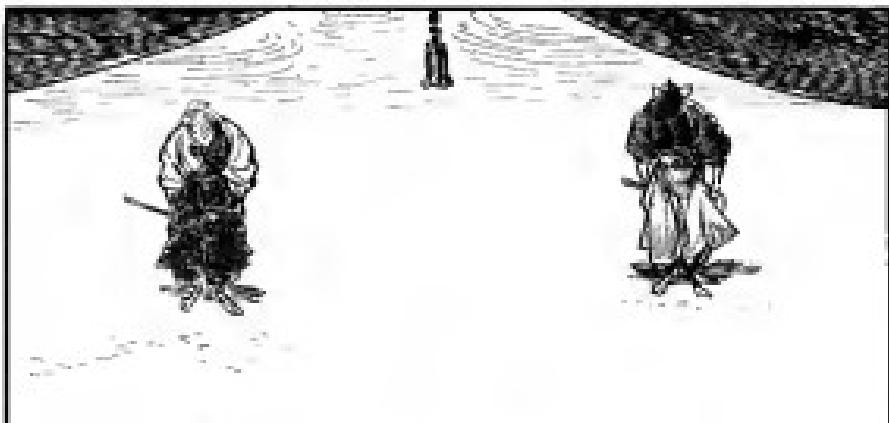


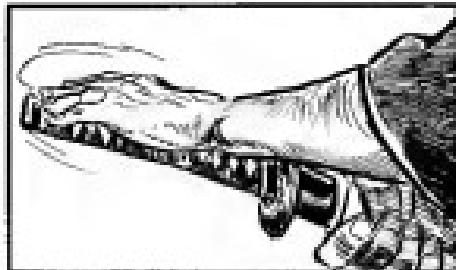
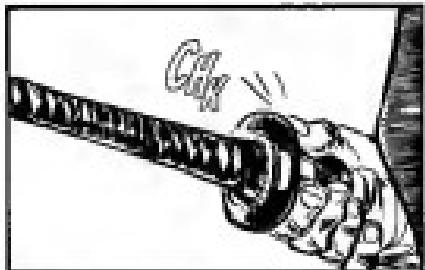
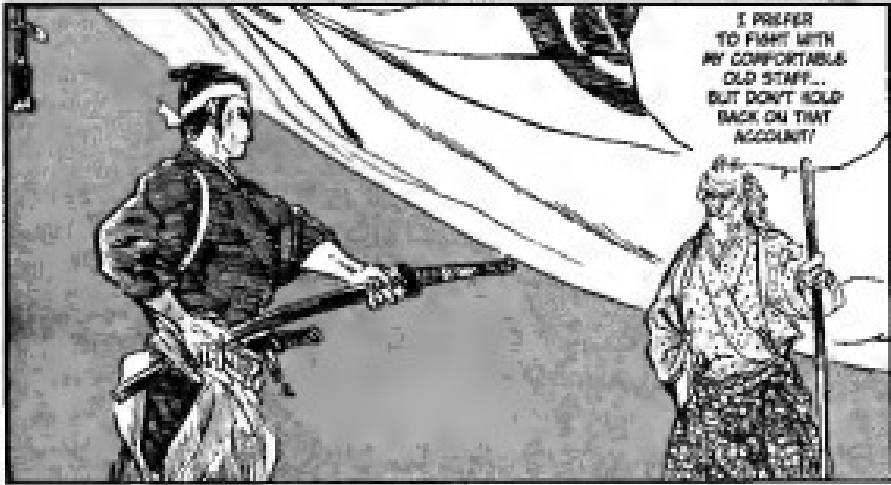




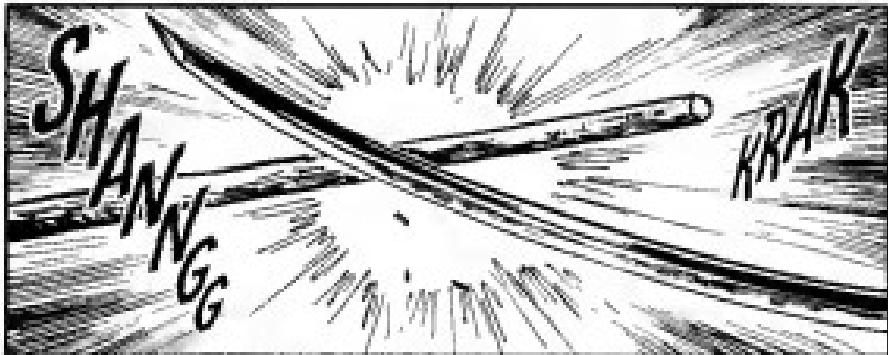




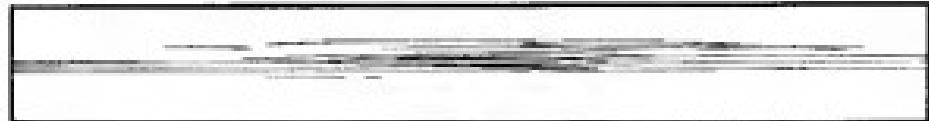






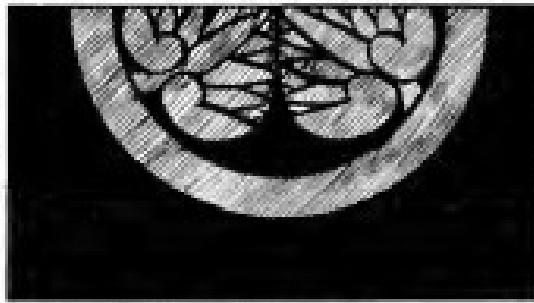
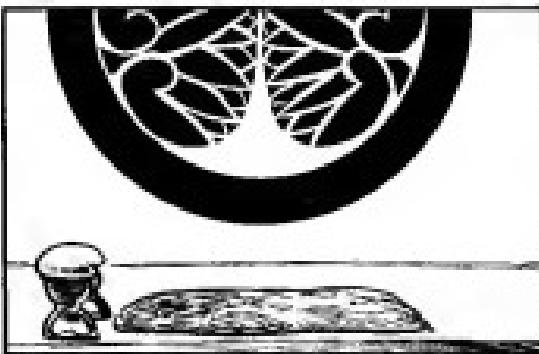












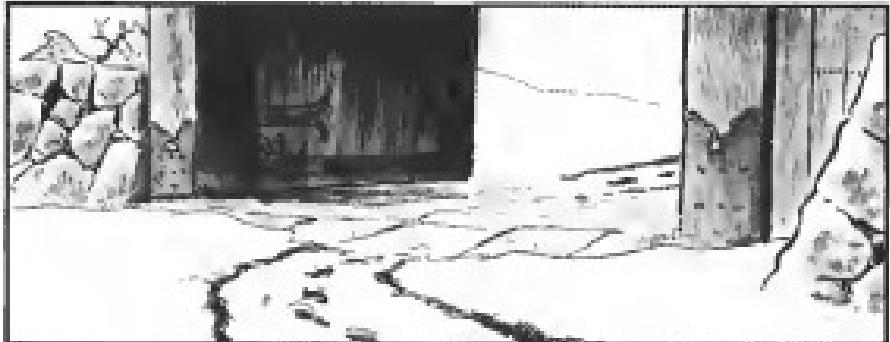




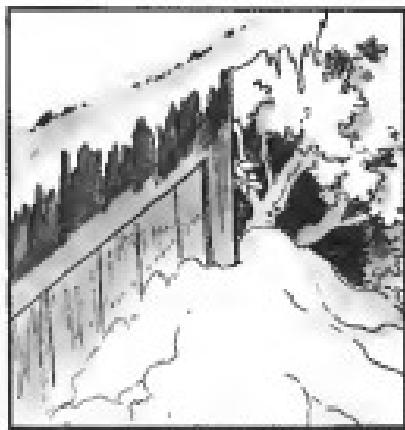
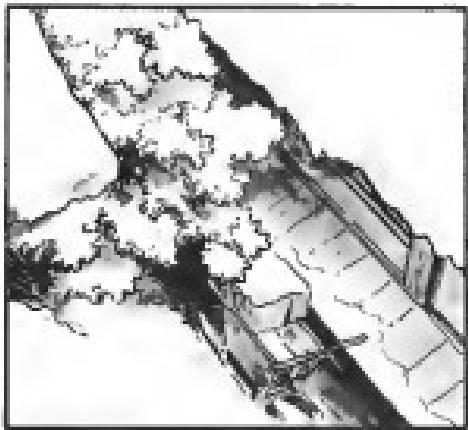
the forty-third

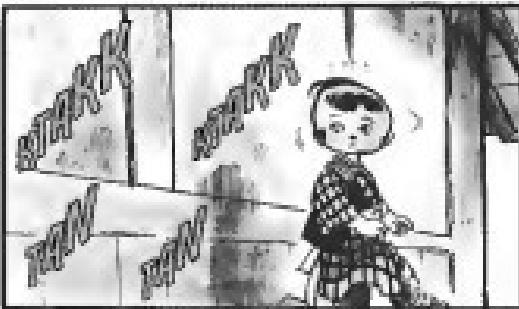
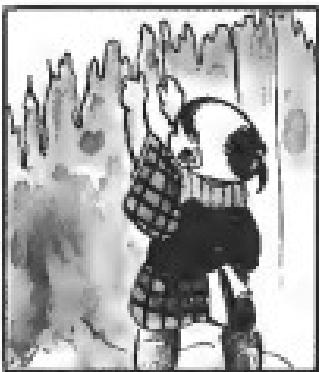
# Thread of Tears

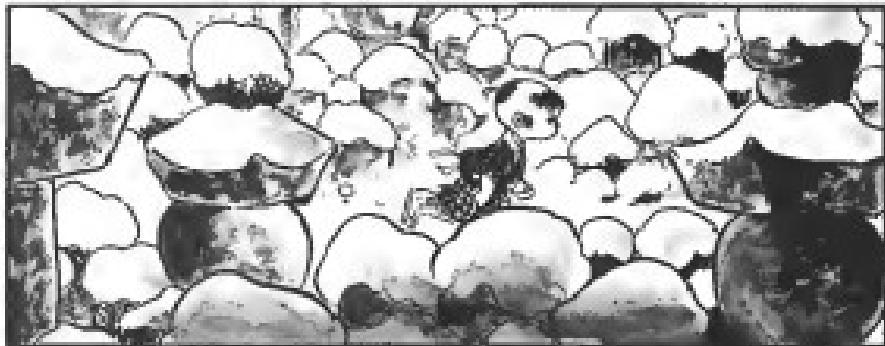


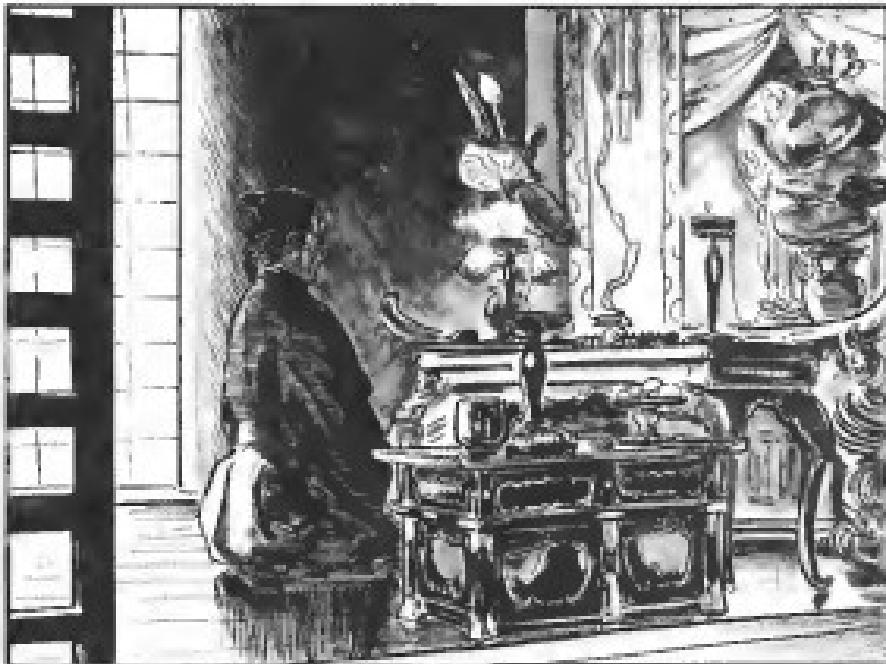


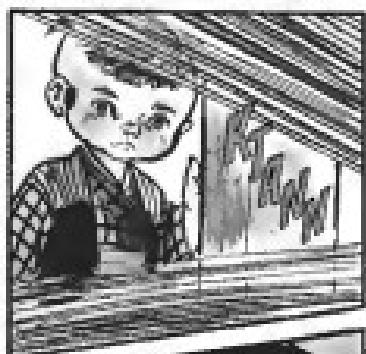
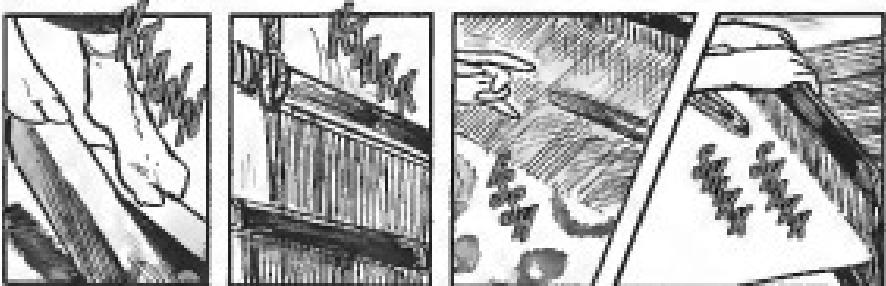
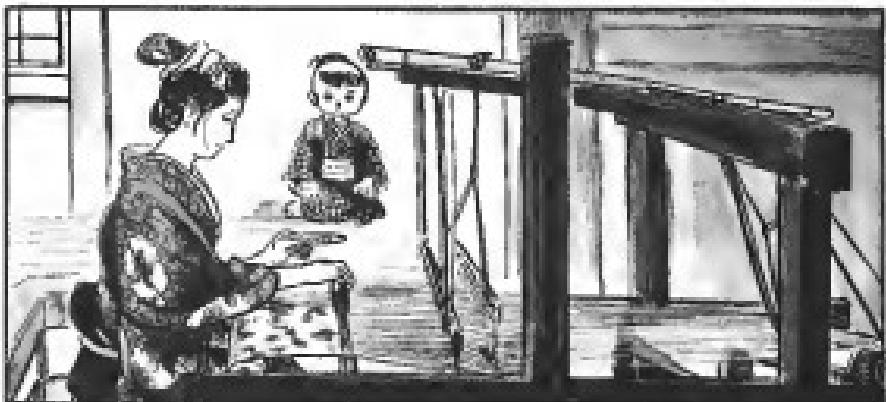


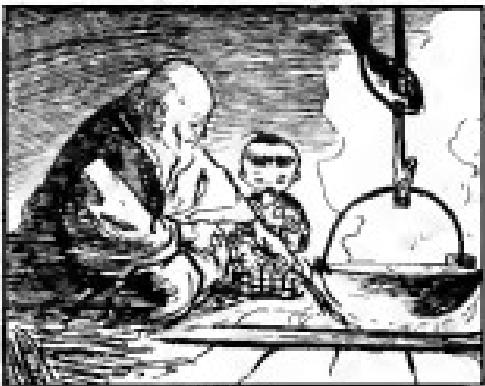
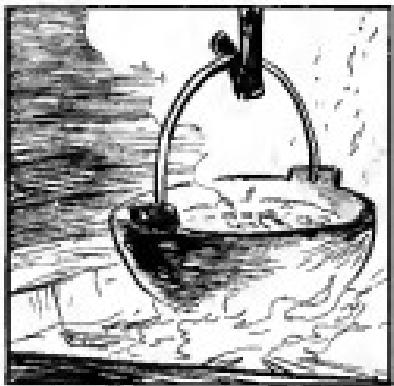
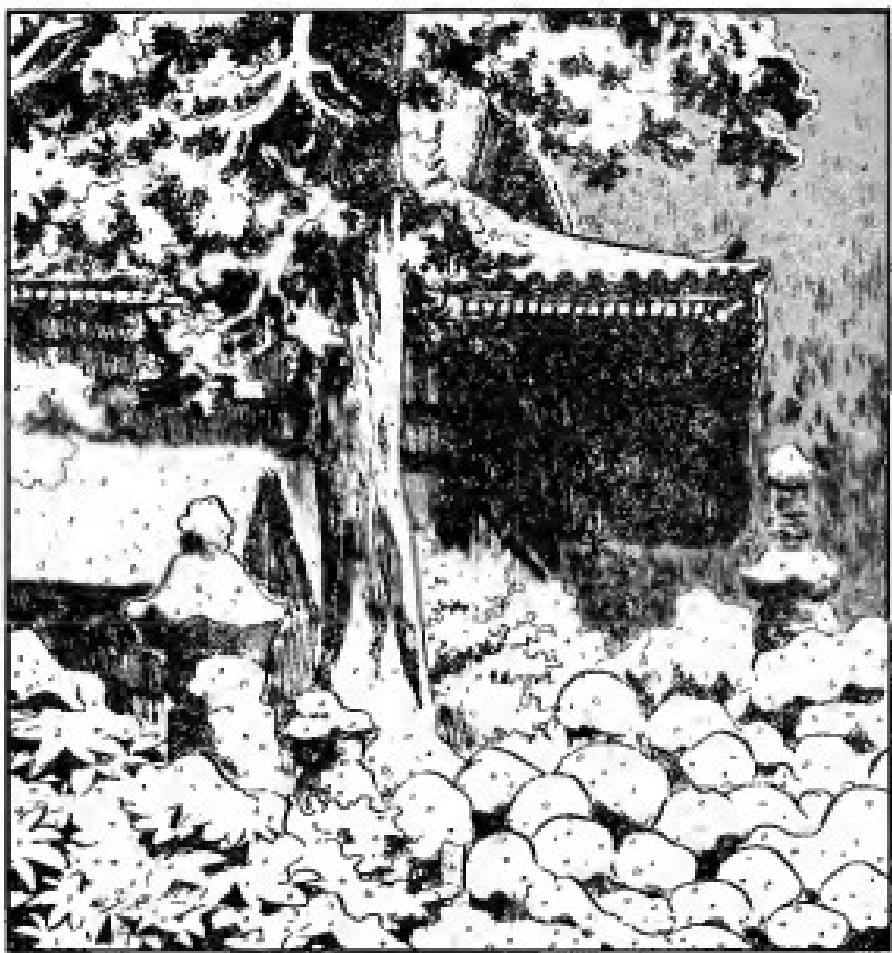


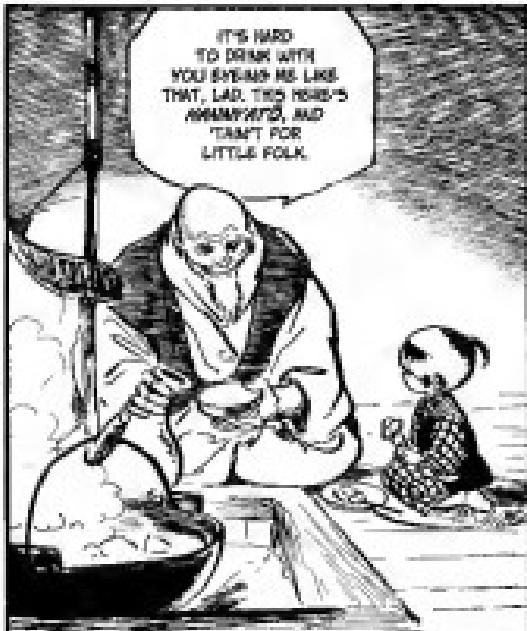


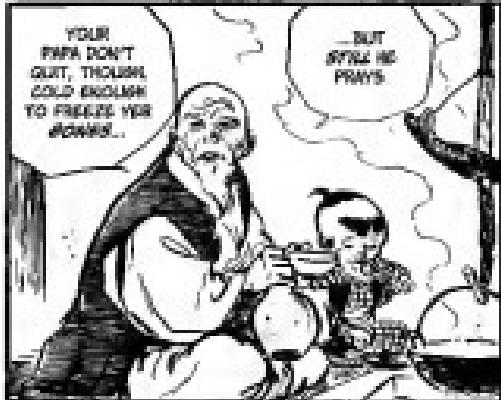


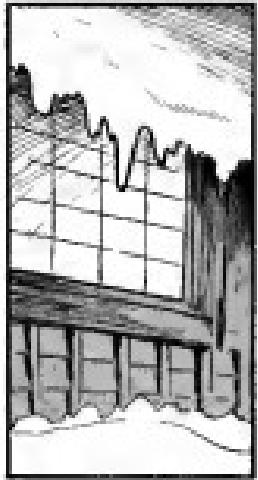


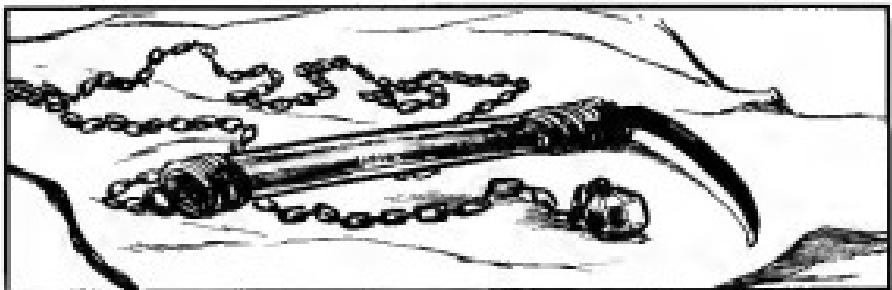


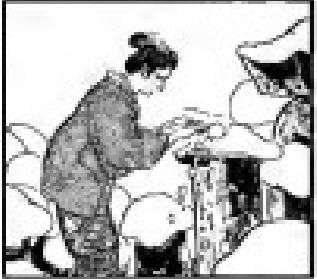
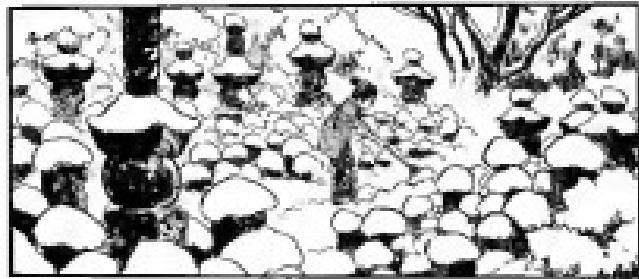




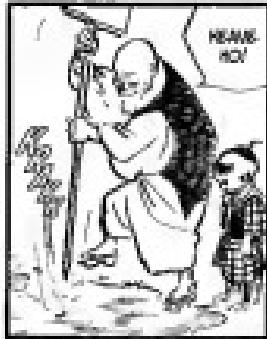


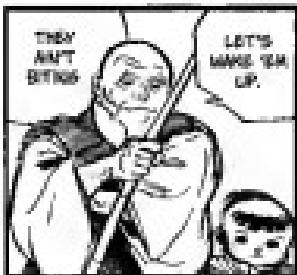
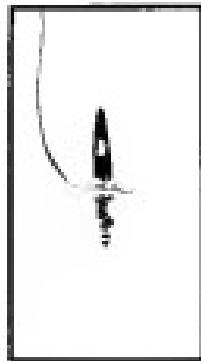










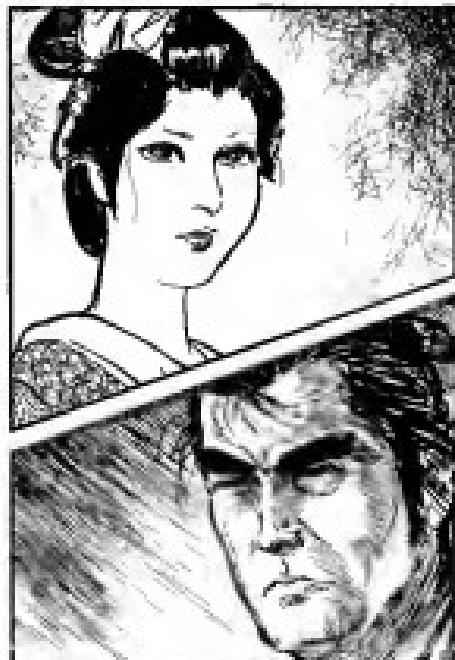
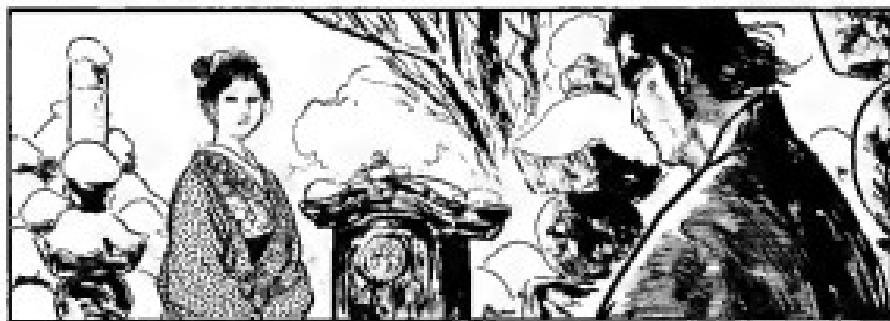


BUT KNOW WHAT?  
WHEN WINTER COMES,  
AND THE SNOW  
LAYS HEAVY...  
NO MERRIMENT,  
NO JOEWS, NO  
MOTRHOVY

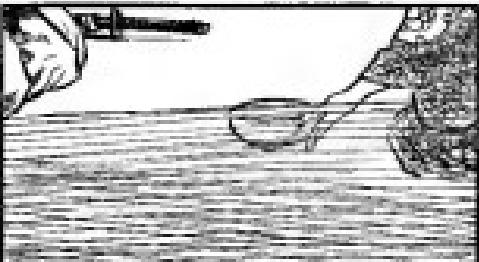
THE  
OFFERINGS STOP,  
NO DONATIONS,  
PRETTY SOON,  
THAWN THE PATH  
OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT—  
IT'S THE PATH OF  
STARVATION!

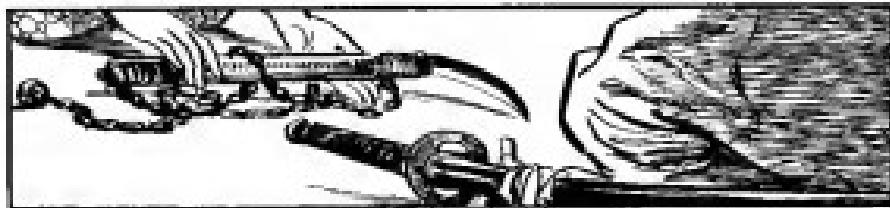




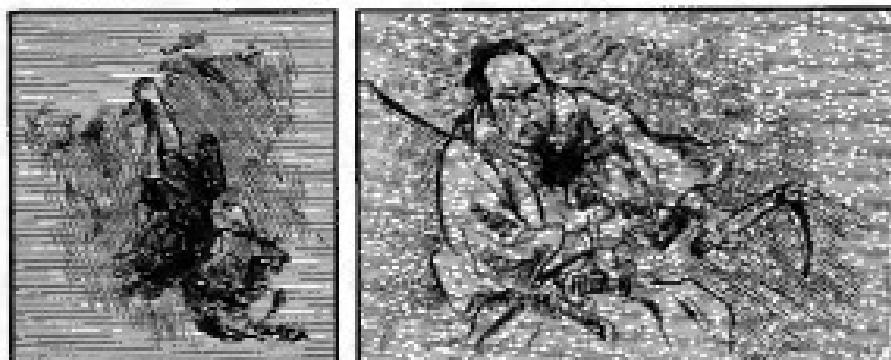
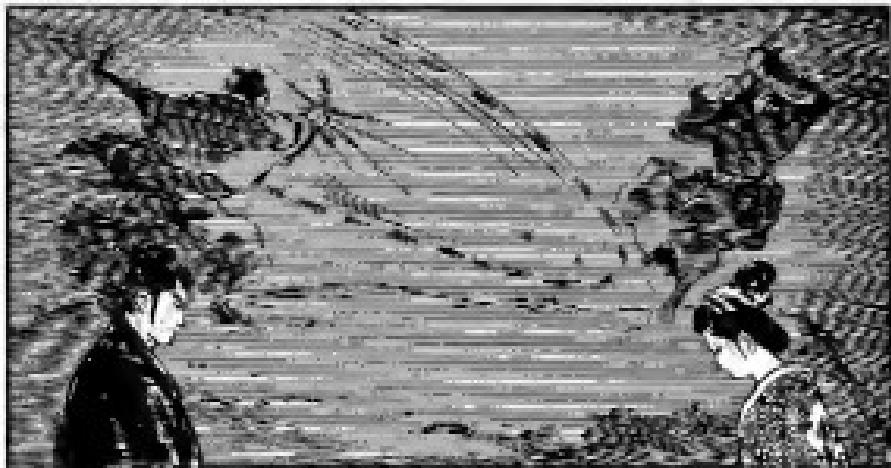


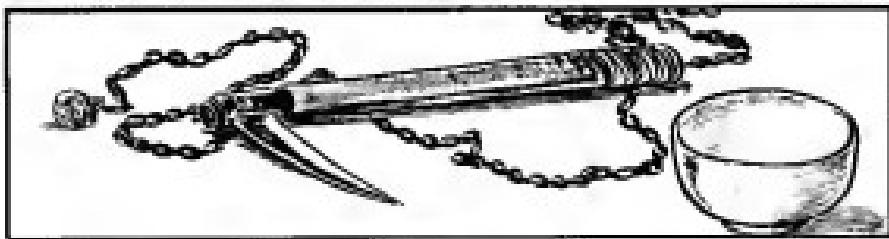
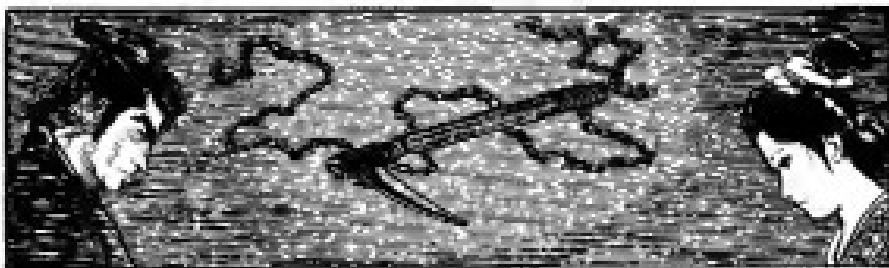
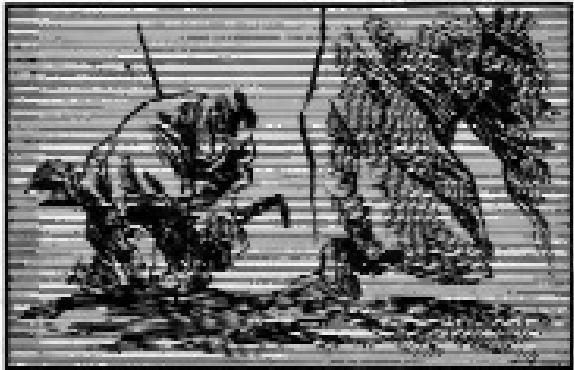








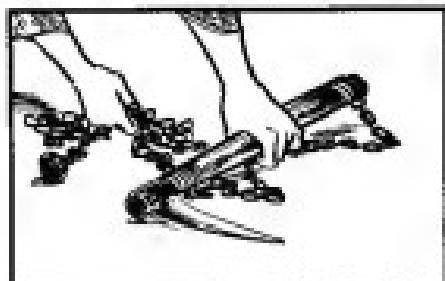


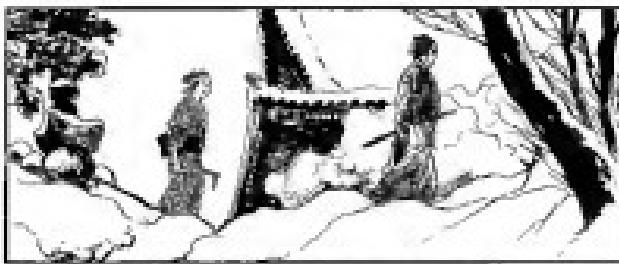


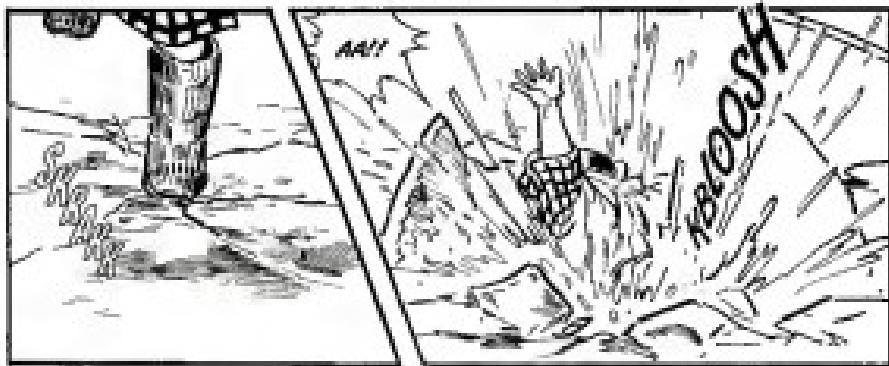
I LEARNED THAT  
HIS KILLER WAS THE  
FORMER KOGI KOBOSHIGAWA,  
OONAI ITTO, AND THAT NOW  
HE WALKS THE ASSASSIN'S  
ROAD, WITH HIS SON.

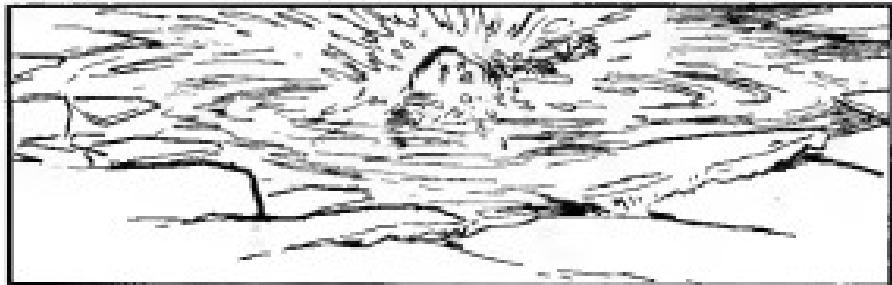


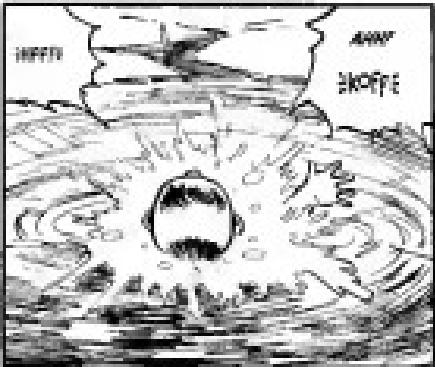
THIS IS OUR  
FAMILY TEMPLE.  
I THOUGHT IF  
OONAI-UCHI WAS,  
AS I HAD HEARD,  
A TRUE  
JESSEY...





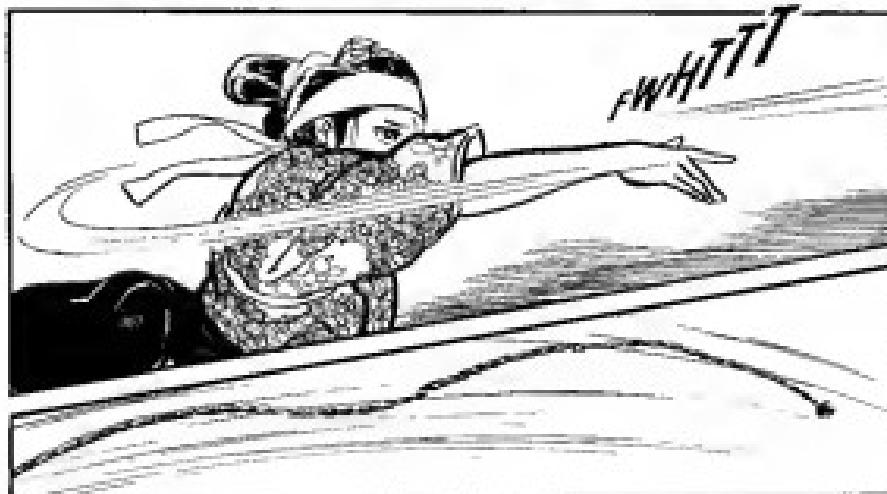
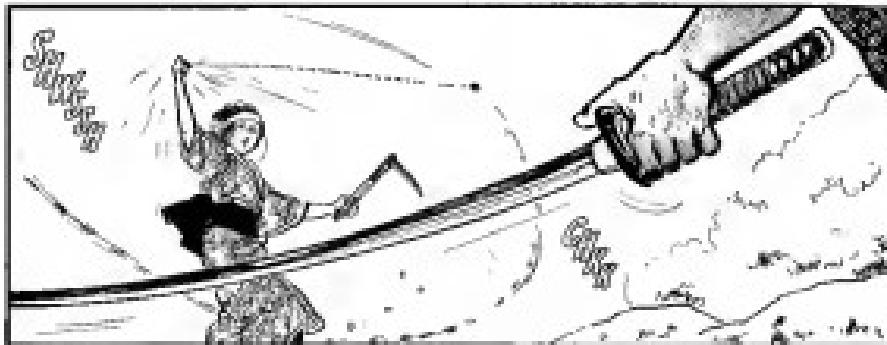


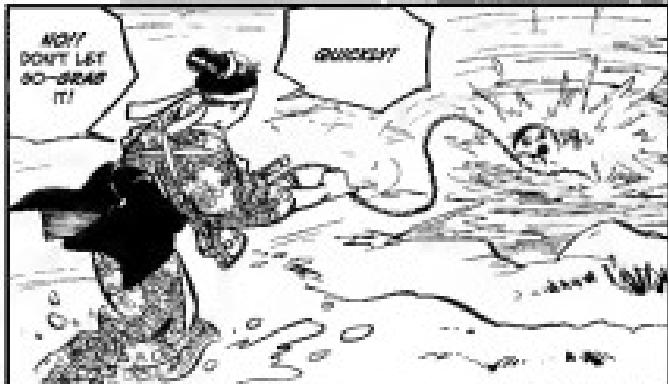
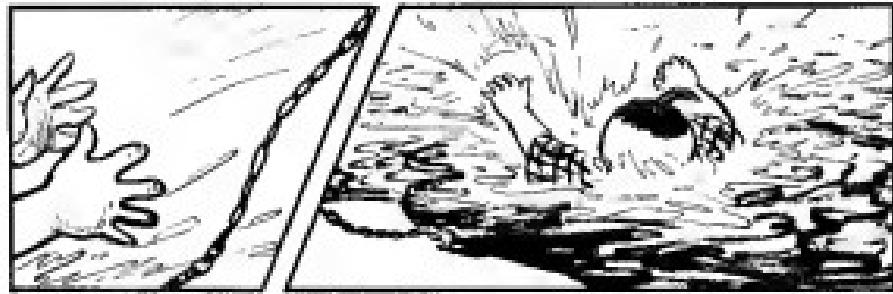
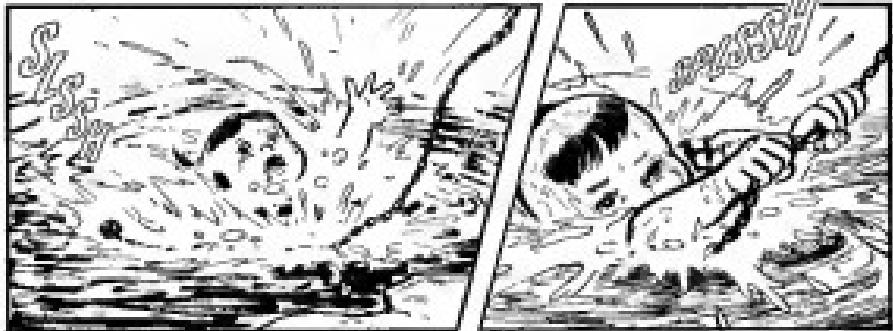




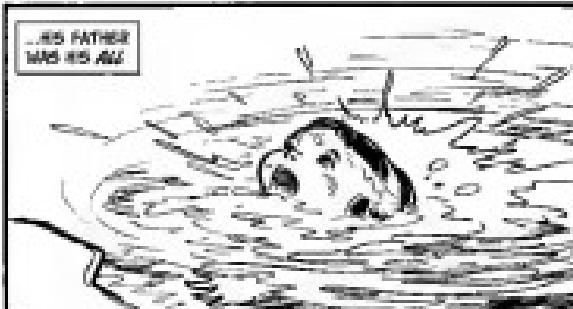
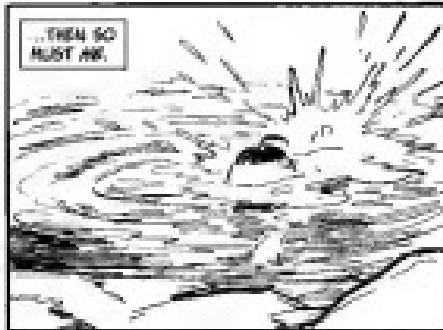
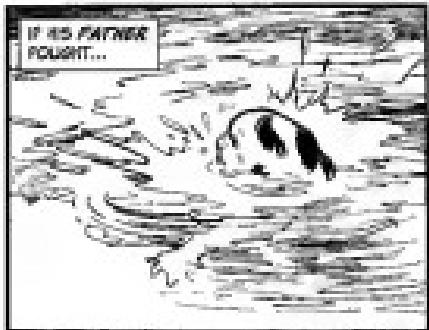


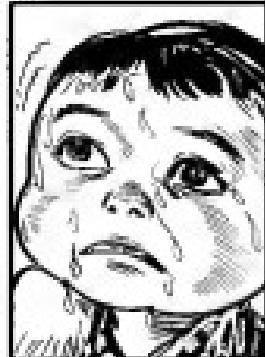
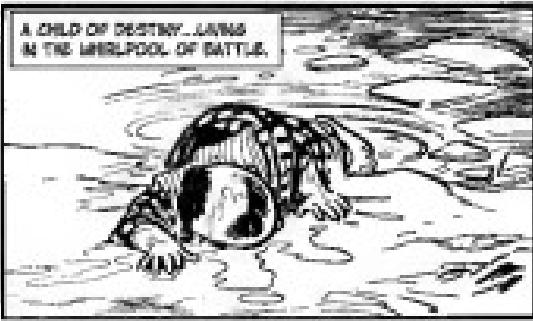
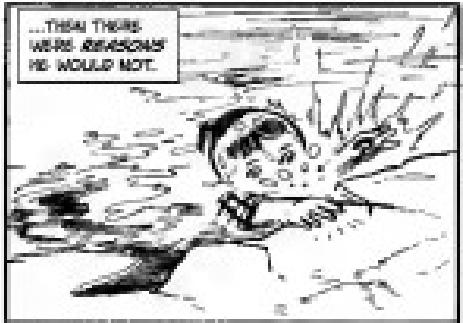


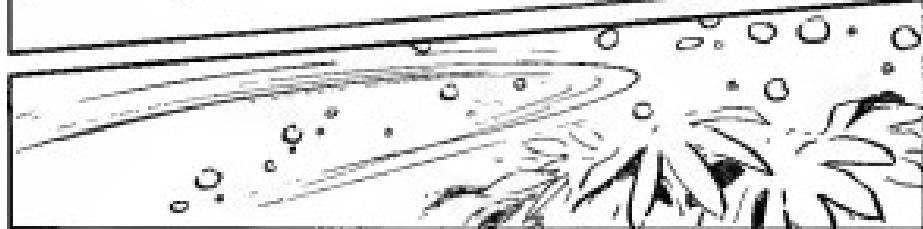


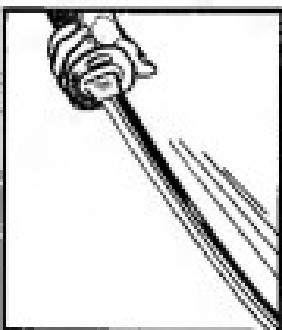


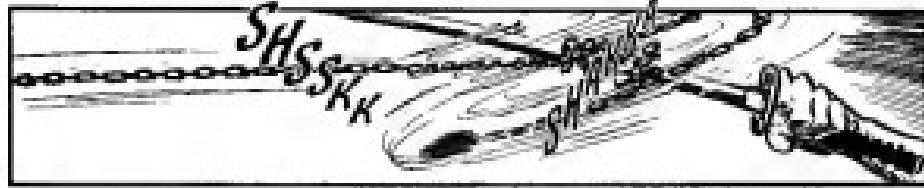


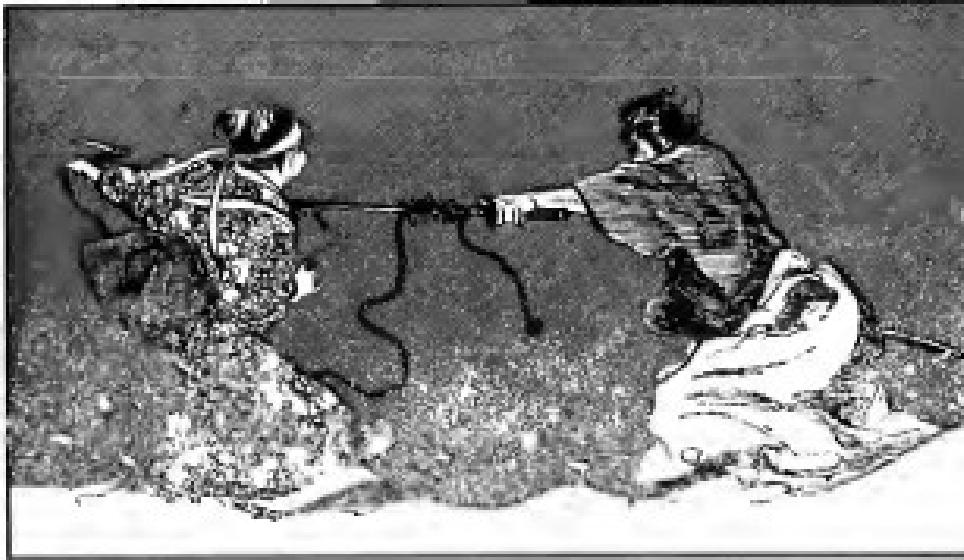
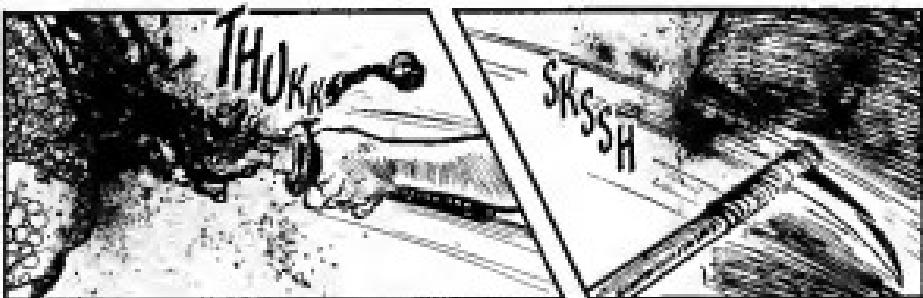
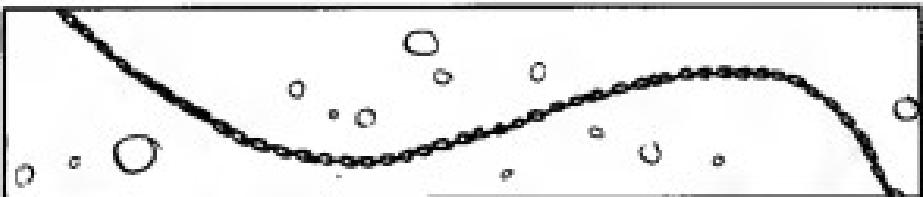








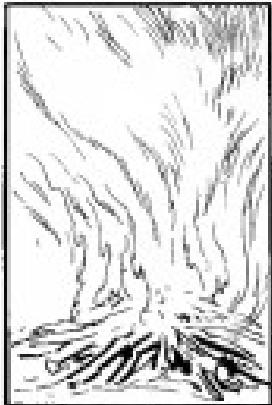






THIS WOMAN THOUGHT HER DREAM  
WAS TYING UP A BLOW AGAINST  
HER ENEMY BEFORE SHE DIED.  
YET WHAT SHE FEARED WAITED UN-  
TIL SHE HAD HER HUSBAND. EVERY DAY  
ALONG HIS ADVICE.





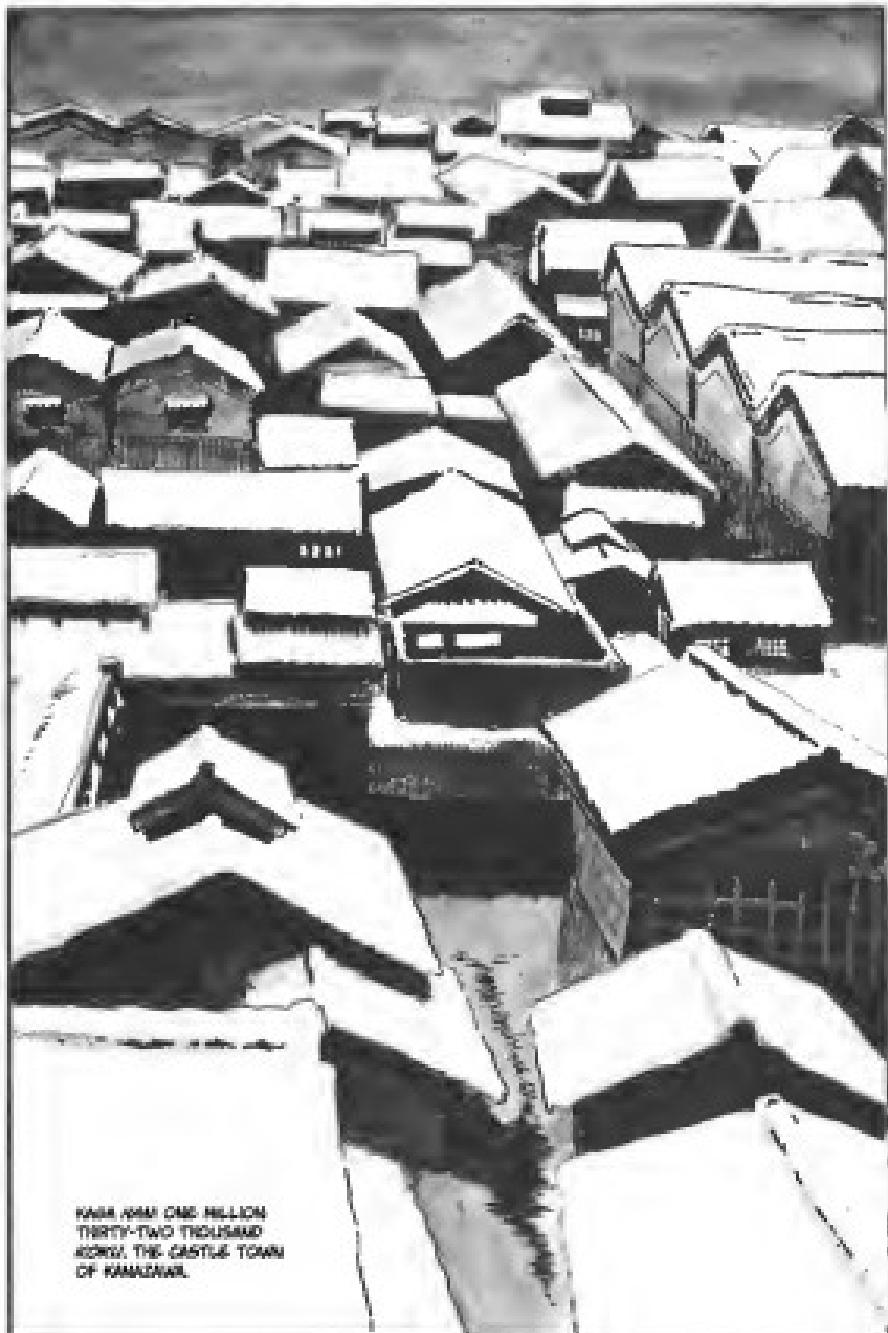




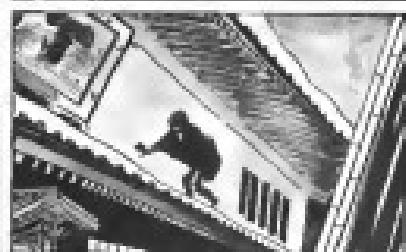
the forty-fourth

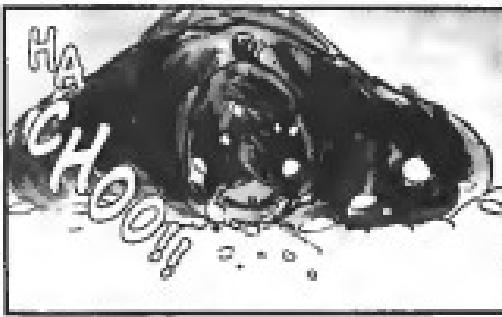
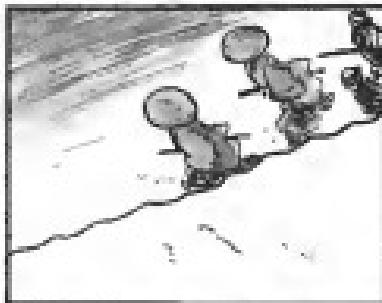
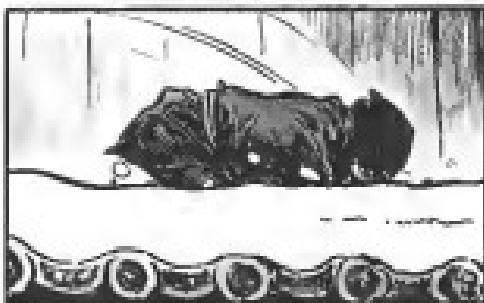
# Beku- no-ji



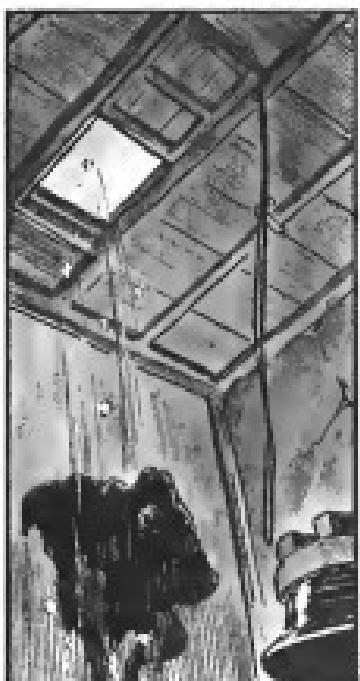
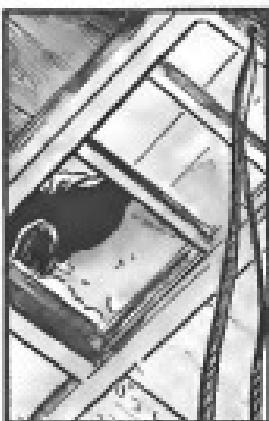


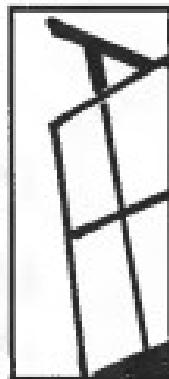
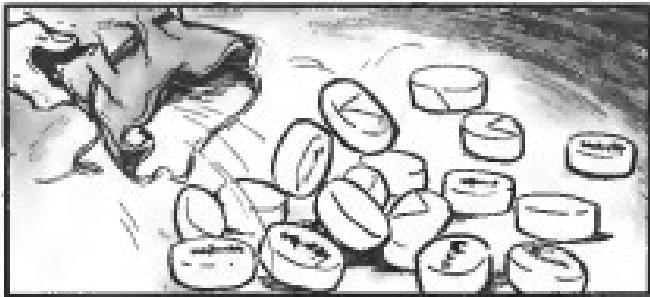
KASHI, XMM ONE MILLION  
THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND  
KONGS, THE CASTLE TOWN  
OF KAMAKURA.

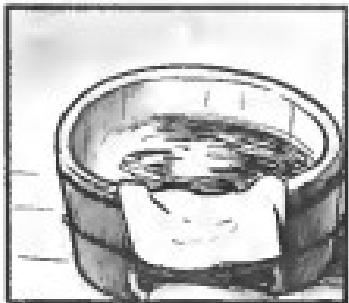


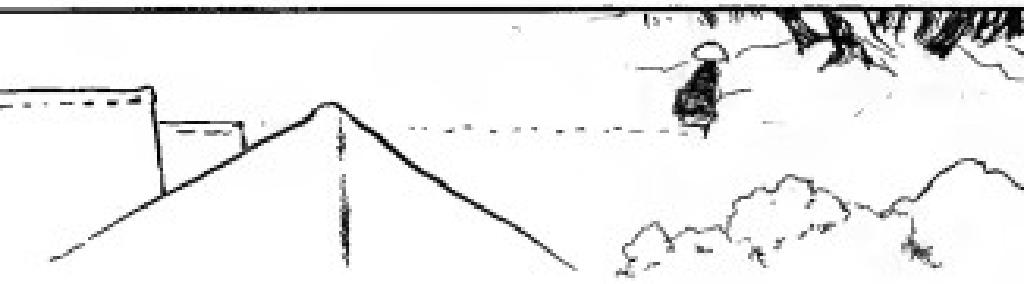


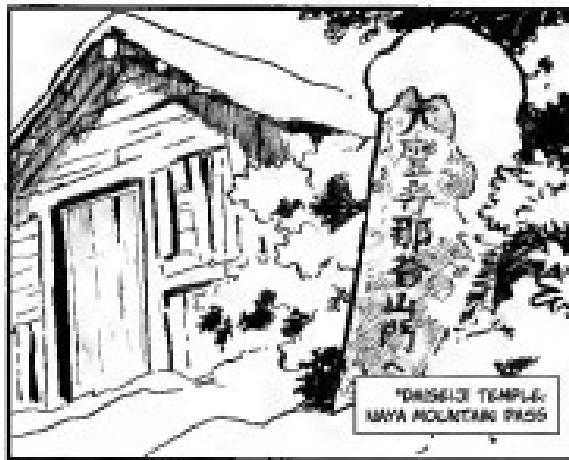
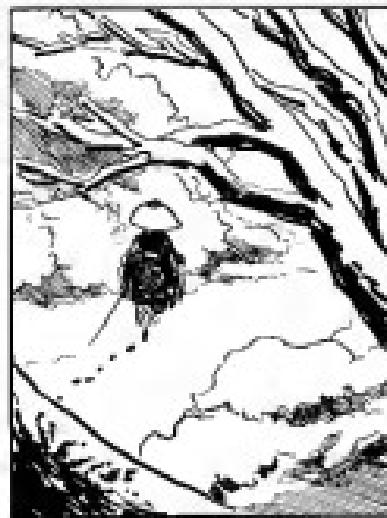


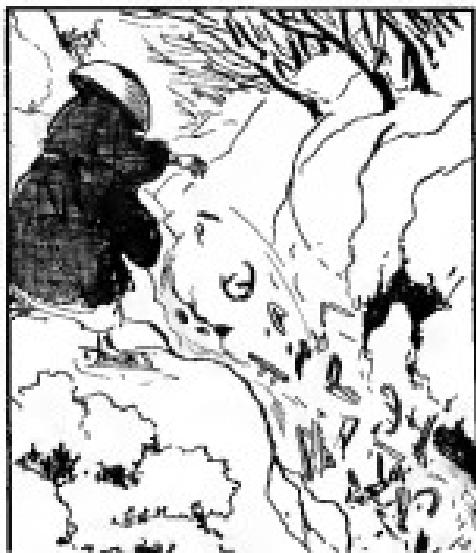
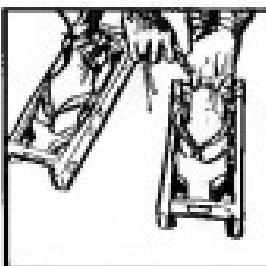
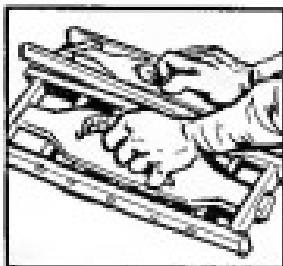


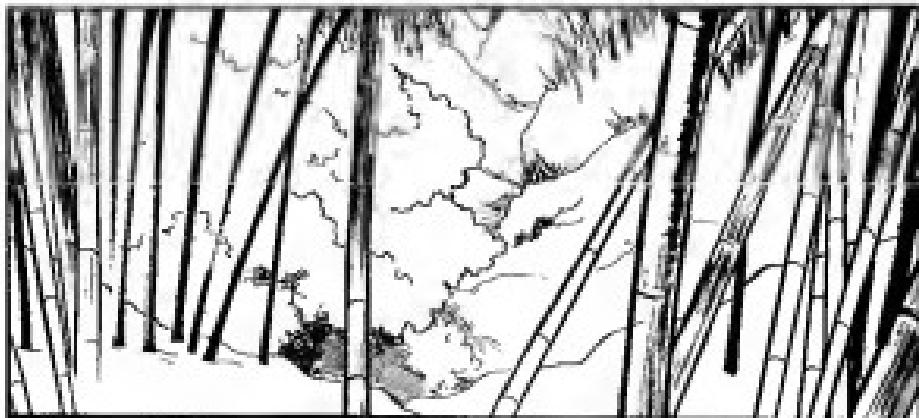
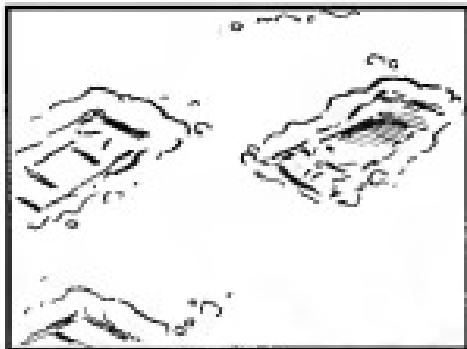


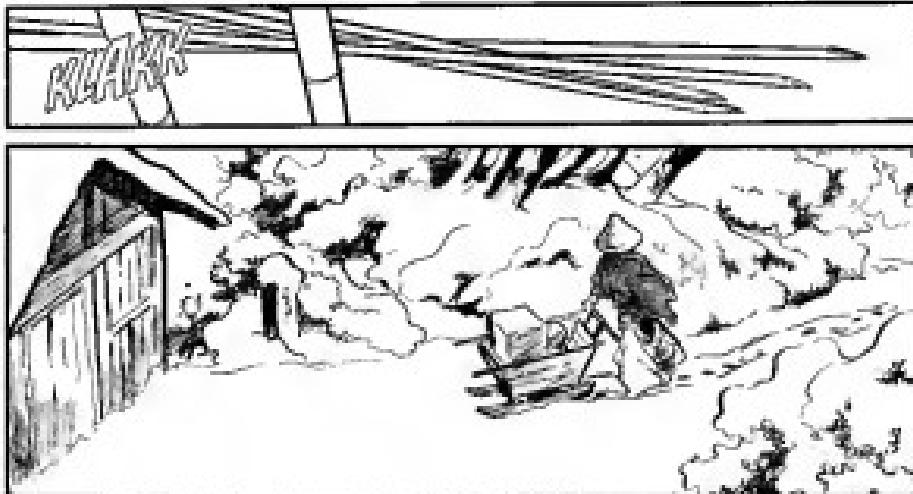
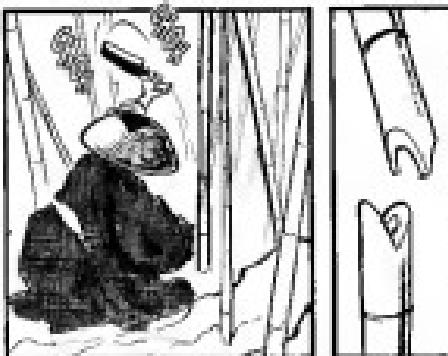
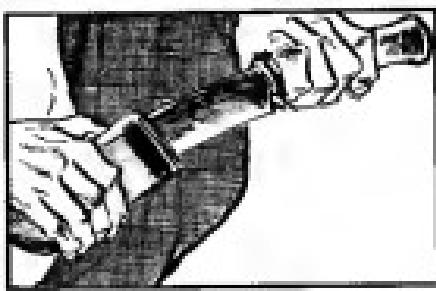


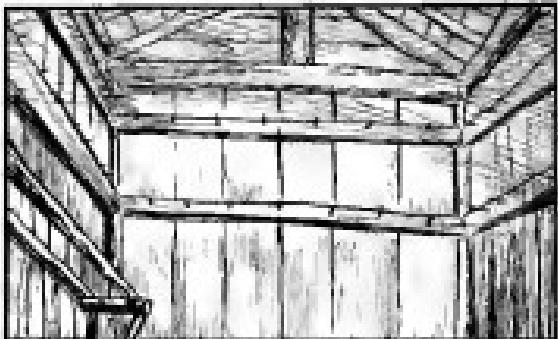


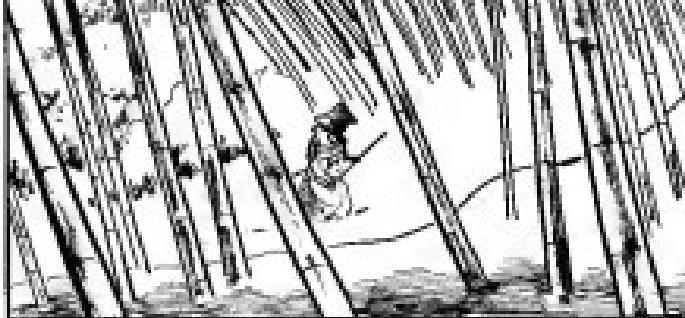


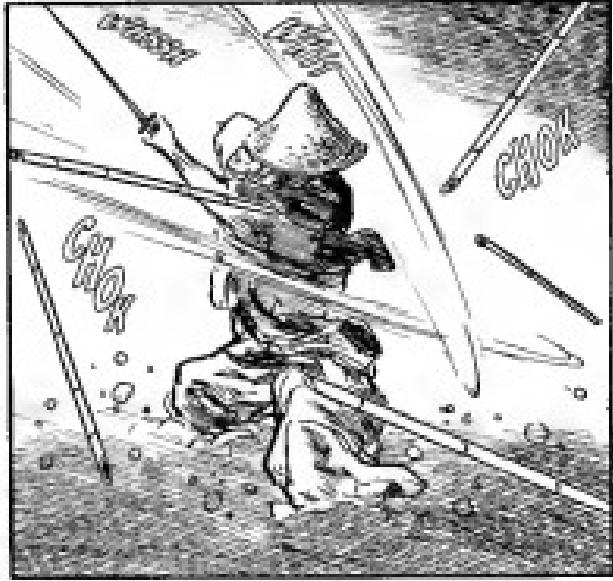






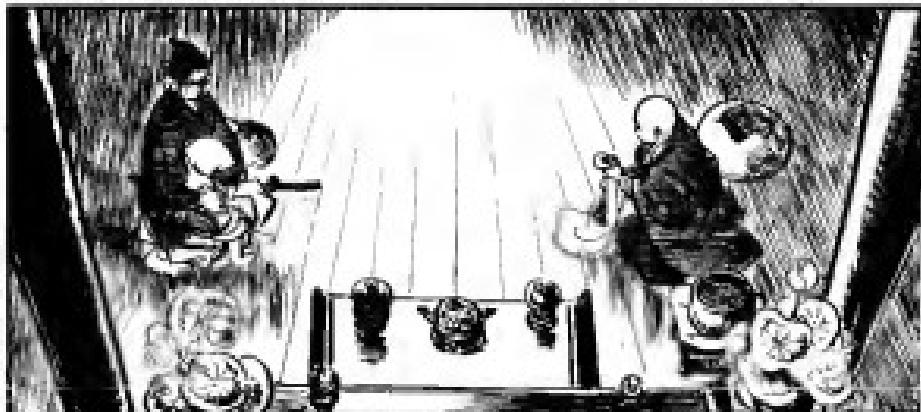


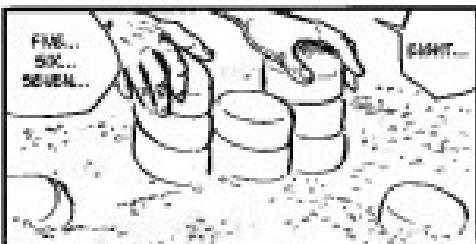




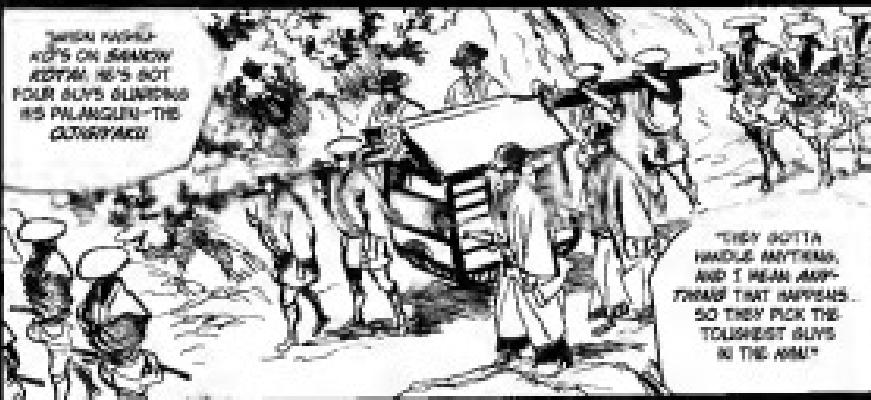




















"THE ADONI  
FAMILY, FATHER  
AND SON, AND THE  
ADONI SOUTHERN TRIO  
CALLED THE BEAR AND JEST  
SQUADS OF RAKU, AND  
THEY WENT TO LOOK  
AT THEIR HABITAT  
TODAY."















KOSA—  
THE SATO-MI  
SHAMOJI OF  
THE JEDDO-  
KANMAI

NOW  
COULD  
A SIMPLE  
THIEF KNOW  
THAT?

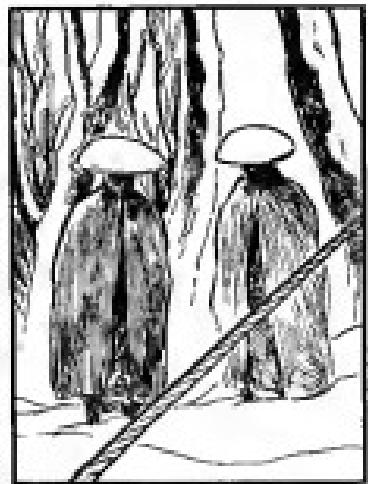
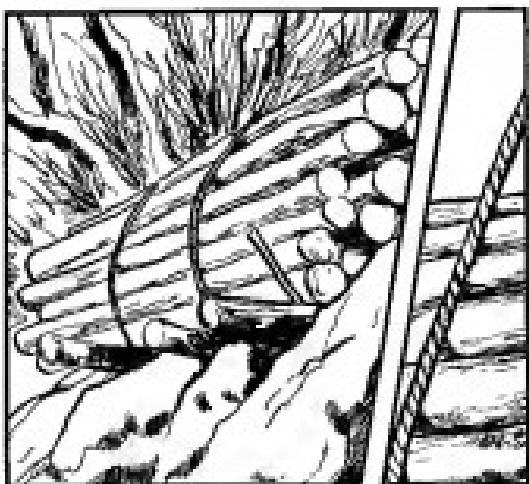








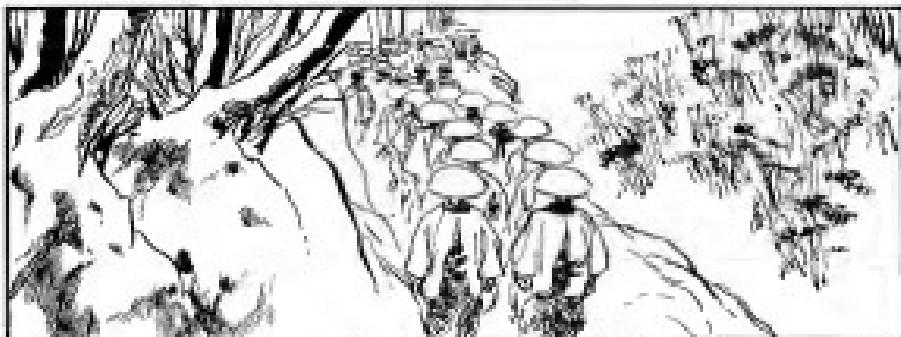




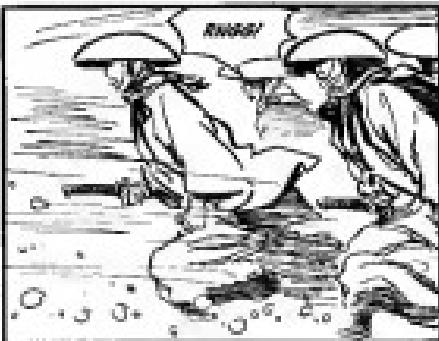




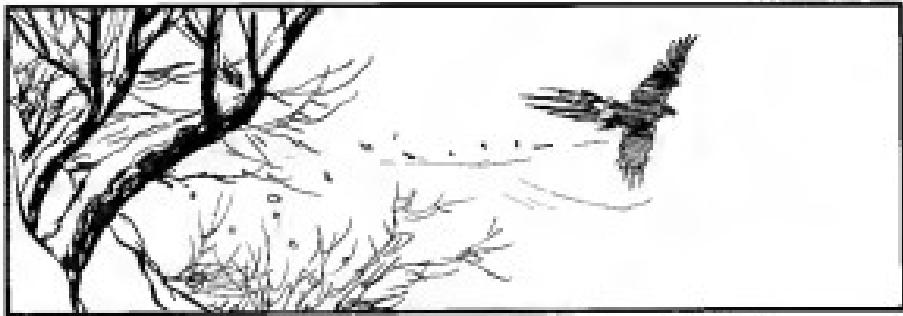
THEY  
COME!



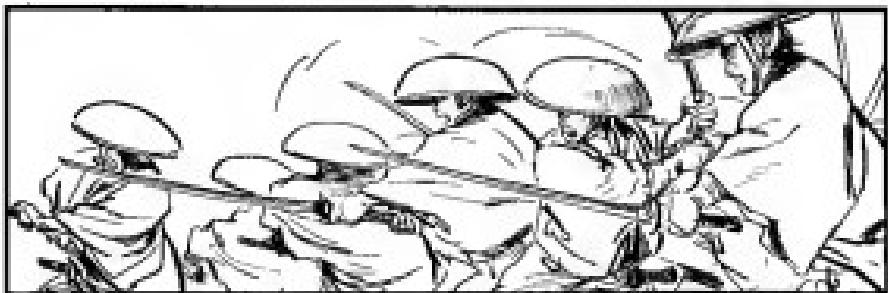


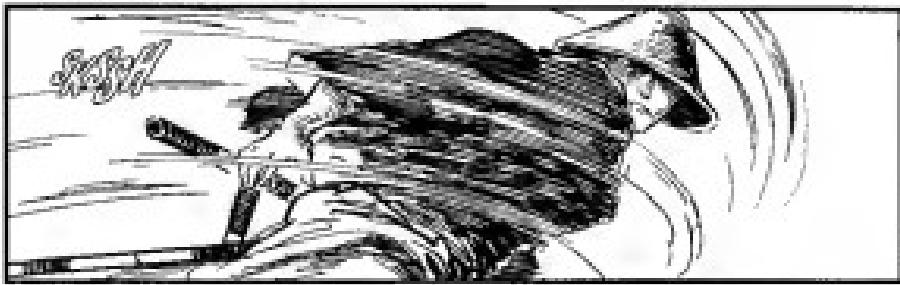


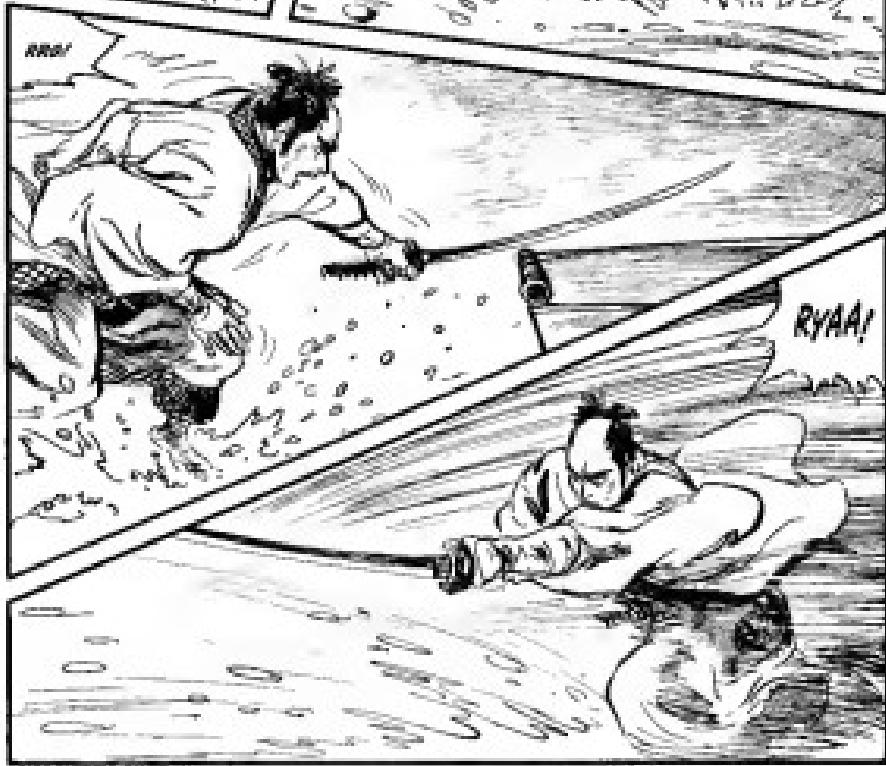




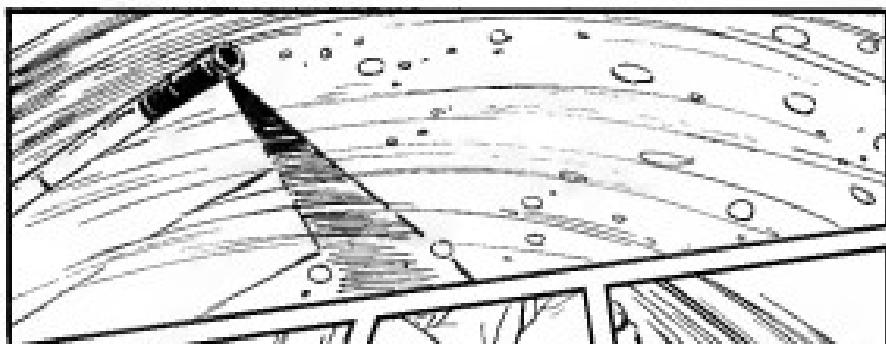




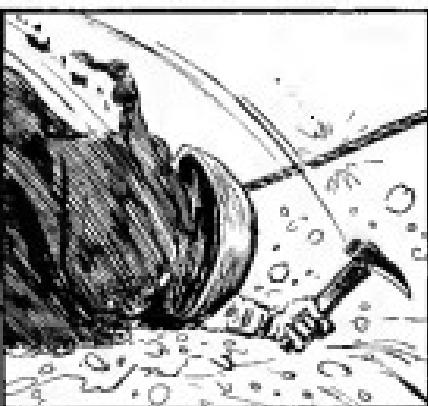


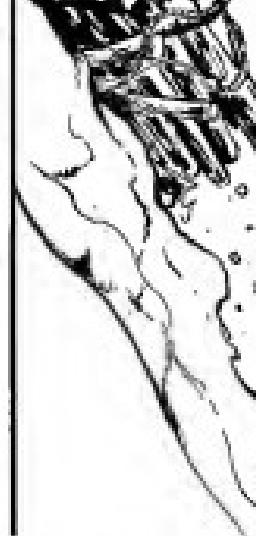
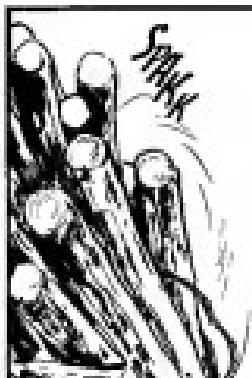
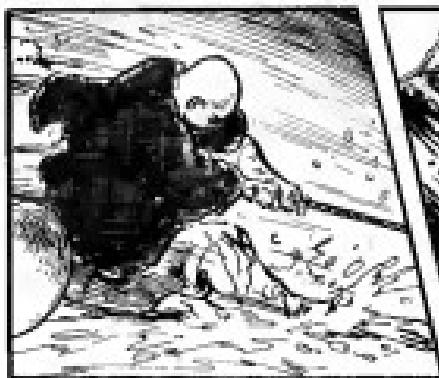


















LOONE WOLF AND CUB BOOK EIGHT: THE END  
TO BE CONTINUED

# GLOSSARY

## **adanchi shamenjō**

A pardon. *Adanchi* (revenge killings) were permitted by the government for family members. When a petition of *adanchi* was approved, the supplicants received an official pardon to prove they acted legally.

## **bakkaku**

The government. The shōgun, his councilors, and his senior officials.

## **bōzu**

A Buddhist monk.

## **daijin**

The primary local representative of the shōgunate in territories outside of the capital of Edo. The *daijin* and his staff collected taxes owed to Edo and oversaw public works, agriculture, and other projects administered by the central government.

## **dōtansuki**

A battle sword. Literally “sword that cuts through torsos.”

## **Edo**

The capital of medieval Japan and the seat of the shōgunate. The site of modern-day Tokyo.

## **fudai**

The inner circle of clans pledging allegiance to the Tokugawa. The *fudai* clans were Tokugawa allies even before the decisive battle of Sekigahara that assured Tokugawa dominance for the next two hundred years.

## **haiku**

Traditional short verse, with a 5-7-5 syllable pattern.

## **han**

A feudal domain.

## **hamnyatō**

“Wisdom’s water.” A euphemism among Buddhist monks for sake.

## **hansatsu**

Paper currency, issued by individual *han* and used only within their borders.

## **hanshi**

Samurai in the service of a *han*.

## **hikyaku**

Runners. An Edo version of the Pony Express, delivery of mail and money by horse and by foot.

## **Hokurikuro**

The main route into northern Japan.

## **honjin**

The lodgings for *daimyō* and senior shōgunate officials.

## **honorifics**

Japan is a class and status society, and proper forms of address are critical. Common markers of respect are the prefixes *o* and *go*, and a wide range of suffixes. Some of the suffixes you will encounter in *Lord Wolf and Cub*:

*chan* – for children, young women, and close friends.

*dono* – archaic; used for higher-ranked or highly respected figures

*sama* – used for superiors

*san* – the most common, used among equals or near-equals

*sensei* – used for teachers, masters, respected entertainers, and politicians

## **kaisho**

A petition admonishing a superior, always fraught with personal risk in feudal Japan. The *kaisho* in Chapter 19 is a *jūi-kaisho*, addressed directly to the shōgun himself.

## **kenkyaku**

Swordsmen, *kōshi*.

## **kō**

A *daimyō* (feudal lord).

## **kōgi kaishakunin**

The shōgun's own second, who performed executions ordered by the shōgun.

## **kokku**

A bale of rice. The traditional measure of a *karō*'s wealth, a measure of his agricultural land and productivity.

## **kuubi**

A severed head. The *kuubi* had great significance, be it the head of a wanted criminal presented to claim a bounty, or the head of a samurai, proof in death of his resolute will.

## **mcifumadō**

The Buddhist Hell. The way of demons and damnation.

## **nagamaki**

A two-handed weapon taller than a man, with a long, curved blade.

## **namu**

From the Sanskrit *nāma*: "take refuge in the Buddha." A common prayer for the dead.

## **o-niawaban**

A *ninja*. Literally "one in the garden." (See *shinobi*.)

## **rōjū**

Senior councillors. The inner circle of councillors directly advising the shōgun. The *rōjū* were the ultimate advisory body to the Tokugawa shōgunate's national government.

## **ryō**

A gold piece, worth 60 monē or 4 kate.

## sankin kōtai

The Tokugawa required that all *daimyō* spend every other year in Edo, with family members remaining behind when they returned to their *han*. This practice increased Edo's control over the *daimyō*, both political and fiscal, since the cost of maintaining two separate households and traveling to and from the capital placed a huge strain on *han* finances.

## sato-iri shinobi

*Shinobi* (ninja) based in *sato* (homelands) around Japan.

## seppuku

The right to kill oneself with honor in stoic for failure, or to follow one's master into death. Only the samurai class was allowed this glorious but excruciating death. The abdomen was cut horizontally, followed by an upward cut to spill out the intestines. When possible, a *kaishakunin* performed a beheading after the cut was made to shorten the agony.

## shidō

Bushidō. The way of the warrior.

## shinobi

A generic term for ninja, meaning "one who moves in secrecy". Ninja had their heyday in the time of warring states before the rise of the Tokugawa clan. Originally mercenaries serving different warlords, by the Edo

period they were in the service of the central government. The most famous shinobi were the *ase* of Iga and Kaga, north of Kyoto. The *Kurokura* that appear in *Love Wolf and Cab* were officially the labourers and manual workers in Edo Castle. Whether they truly served as a secret spy corps is lost in history.

## temryō

Government land, administered directly by the shōgunate. Law was enforced by the *shidai* magistrate assigned from Edo. In *han* territory, the *han* authorities enforced the law.

## toshiyori

Literally, elders. The top officials of the shōgunate and the *han*, encompassing the *nyū* senior and *wakadoshiyori* junior councilors and *baed* elders.

## wakadoshiyori

Junior councilors. The Tokugawa shōgunate was a hybrid government, both a national government empowered by the emperor to govern the nation as a whole, and a *daimyō* government like that of any *han*, concerned with protecting the interests of the Tokugawa clan itself. The council of *wakadoshiyori* junior councilors was the highest advisory body to the shōgun on matters affecting the clan, rather than the nation as a whole.



Under the omnipresent thumb of the conniving warlord Yagyu Retsudo, the Shogun's secret Kurokuwa ninja warriors attempt to ensnare the embattled ronin Ogami Itto and his infant son, Daigoro. If the Lone Wolf can break these chains of death, there are many more waiting to challenge the masterful swordsman, including a vengeful widow, numerous police, and the freezing cold of winter itself. Read the story of Ogami's rise to the position of the Shogun's Officer of Death, and witness the seething root of Yagyu Retsudo's bitterness against Ogami...

*"Koike and Kojima have become leading cultural figures in Japan because of [Lone Wolf and Cub]; their work has influenced entire generations of creators."*

— Shawn Macaulay  
[enmanga.com](http://enmanga.com)

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